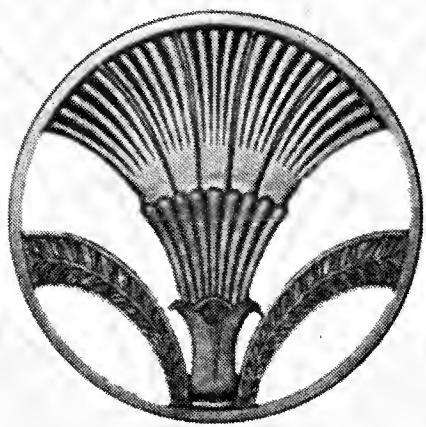


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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: December

by Joe Thill

Following a mild, windy and snowless first 15 days, Buffalo and its adjacent suburbs remained virtually snow free until December 24th when a large mass of cold arctic air, the coldest in recent memory, accompanying a cold front from Canada which precipitated the first lake effect storm of the winter over the warm waters of Lake Erie and deposited 22.8 inches of snow on the city of Buffalo and its environs. Earlier in the month, between December 12th and 15th Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties in the higher elevations of the Southern Tier received one to three feet of snow from this weather system which also assured the region of a White Christmas for the third consecutive year. However, the remainder of the period enjoyed above average temperatures with the lake temperature just one tenth of a degree below normal and it did not fall below 45° F until the end of the month. As the result of this dramatic reversal of fortunes observers report waterfowl staying further north than usual and an increase of marginal wintering passerines in our study area in December. Following the unpleasant intervals of cold weather early in the month, the more favorable conditions accompanying the winter solstice in December lured a large number of birders afield and, as the number of noteworthy records published elsewhere in those pages will attest, they were rewarded with a banner month. The average temperature for the month at Buffalo was 29.7° F, one tenth of a degree below normal; the total snowfall for the month, 22.8 inches was 2.7 inches

below normal; precipitation (as rain) 1.99 inches above normal (meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service Monthly Weather Service Summary for Buffalo as posted on the internet and by the Daily Weather Summary in the *Buffalo News*).

The milder weather patterns of late December provided a needed tonic to the winter weary bird watchers in Niagara County and indeed they were not disappointed. On December 2nd, Canadian birder, Allen Chartier of Niagara Falls, Ontario was summoned to the home of a neighbor to review photographs of a hummingbird, which had been discovered by the homeowner on September 2nd and had been visiting one or more bird feeders in the neighborhood for some time prior to the December date. Chartier was able to see the bird with binoculars and, having previous experience a licensed bander of this and other hummingbirds, immediately identified it as a Rufous Hummingbird by its diagnostic buffy orange flanks and broad outer tail feathers which average larger than those of its congener, Allen's Hummingbird, which has outer tail feathers that tend to be narrower. Chartier concludes that his bird is a male Rufous Hummingbird of the nominate race *Salasphorus rufus*, a bird of western provenance and a casual vagrant in the Great Lakes Region; it is the third record for our study area, the most recent being an adult male of this species reported by BOS member Jim Wojewodzki at his residence on the State Road in the Town of Colden where it was seen by Bob Andrle and a host of others on October 4th, 2003 (see *Prothonotary* 62: 11, November 2003).

Hummingbirds were not the only species to attract the attention of local birders this month. On December 18th, Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter went to the resi-

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

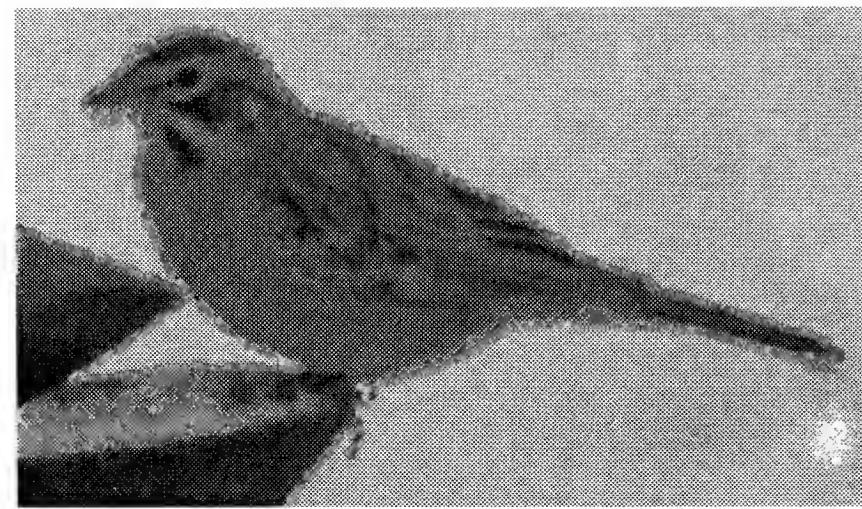
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and Beardslee and other authors as a casual very rare vagrant in New York State and Ontario, Hilts' bird being only the 4th record for our study area. Previous sightings include birds seen by Mitchell, Rew *et al.* in the Town of Portland in Cattaraugus County in August 1962.

Bald Eagle sightings in Western New York continue to increase. On a field trip on December 26th, Allegany County Birders Tim Baird and Tom LeBlanc counted 15 immature and 11 adult Bald Eagles over and around the Allegheny Reservoir in Allegany State Park, Cattaraugus County. Bald Eagle populations in New York State in June 2004 had increased by 12% to 84 breeding pairs; successful pairs grew 20% to 66 and eaglets fledged soared 28% to 111 birds (*fide North American Birds* 58: 4 2004). Closer to home in early February, Bill Watson observed two Bald Eagles in flight across the Niagara River carrying twigs and other nesting material to a large, apparently empty

dence of Joan and David Huts on Cayuga Island in the City of Niagara Falls (NY) in response to a request from the residents for their assistance in the identification of a small parulid in the company of a flock of resident Black-capped Chickadees in a grove of large hemlocks and Austrian pines on the premises. A smaller bird with a short thin bill, black, gray and white in color with white wing bars, a dark crown and a white ventral body patch was flying among the chickadees. They speculated that this might be the Hilts' elusive parulid. A series of excellent photographs taken by Joan Hilts subsequently identified their quarry as a Black-throated Gray Warbler, accurately described by Mitchell



*Lark Sparrow, photographed in Youngstown, NY by Jim Wojewodzski*

nest in the uppermost boughs of a large tree on Strawberry Island, 1/3 of a mile across the Niagara River shoreline in the City of North Tonawanda. Watson also observed interaction between these two birds in flight, which he speculated may be a precursor to courtship activity. Other raptor observations of interest in December include an adult male Peregrine Falcon observed on December 1st by Mike Turisk flying with no apparent discomfort against a west southwest wind of 15-25 mph velocity in higher gusts along the Lake Erie Shoreline at Athol Springs. The presence of Merlins in our study area continued to occupy Peter Yoerg's attention in December although in decreased numbers. This month he continued to monitor a small population of 23 birds wintering among the Austrian Pines at the State University at Buffalo South Campus but he estimates that no more than six of these Merlins will remain until spring.

Finally the year 2004 ended on an upbeat note with several interesting birds reported to our compiler of records. On November 7th, Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter and Dean DiTommaso discovered the first Califor-



*Boreal Owl, photographed at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park, December 18th, by Bob Ensminger*

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-throated Loon	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	27	1	Porter	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Pied-billed Grebe	30	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, J&K Landau
Horned Grebe	12	4	Fort Erie	Morgante
Great Blue Heron	30	9	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, J&K Landau
Black-cr. Night-Heron	30	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, J&K Landau
Turkey Vulture	<u>27</u>	1	Cambria	Morgante
Brant	<u>12</u>	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
Mute Swan	18	3	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Watson, Lazarczyk
Tundra Swan	7; 8	30; 39	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk; Hess
"	19	3; 23	Fort Erie; Niagara Falls	Watson; Roberson
Wood Duck	4	1	Dufferin Is.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Gadwall	2	7	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	4	6	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	<u>11</u>	4	Tifft NP	Watson
American Wigeon	4	11	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	4	8	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	11	3	Tifft NP	Watson
American Black Duck	21	18	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	2; 4	2; 1	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	<u>21</u>	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	7	1	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
Green-winged Teal	4; 6	1; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Canvasback	6	200	Niagara Falls, NY	Lazarczyk
Redhead	6	20	Niagara Falls, NY	Lazarczyk
Ring-necked Duck	8	1	Bennington	Seamans
"	19	22	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Greater Scaup	11	30	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
* King Eider	12	2	Fort Erie	Morgante
"	19; 20	2	Fort Erie	Watson; Lazarczyk
"	26; 29	2	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Fort Niagara SP	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
* Harlequin Duck	4	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	5	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Surf Scoter	27	1	Fort Niagara SP	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Porter	Morgante
White-winged Scoter	6	1	Niagara Falls, NY	Lazarczyk
"	12	1	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
"	24	25	Fort Niagara SP	S&T O'Donnell
Black Scoter	27	1	Fort Niagara SP	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Hooded Merganser	4	23	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	11	22	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Common Merganser	1 - 18	82 max	Bennington	Seamans
Bald Eagle	2	2	Peace Bridge	J Landau, Chilton
"	5	15 imm + 11 ad	Allegany SP and Reservoir	Baird, DeSha, LeBlanc
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	W & D Watson
"	24	1	Niagara Falls, NY	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	2 ad	Iroquois NWR	Turisk
"	27	1	Beaver I. SP	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Red-shouldered Hawk	26	1	Royalton	S&T O'Donnell
Rough-legged Hawk	11 - 30	6 recs; 5 max	Near L. Ontario	Several observers
"	18	1	Philips Creek	Brooks
Merlin	3 - 27	6 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	Athol Springs	Turisk
* Purple Sandpiper	4	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
Little Gull	4	2	Niag. Whirlpool	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	5	1	Niag. Whirlpool	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	2	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>California Gull</u>	4	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	5; 12	1	Adam Beck Hydro	D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	4	2	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	27	13	Porter	D'Anna, Guthrie
"	27	1	Porter	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	4	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson, D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	5	11	Niag. Falls & Queenston	D'Anna et al
"	5; 12	3; 2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
Glaucous Gull	4	1	Adam Beck Hydro	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	12	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	12	1	Niag. Whirlpool	Yoerg
"	27	2	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Black-leg. Kittiwake	5	2	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Yoerg, Henderson
Eastern Screech-Owl	27	5	Iroquois NWR	Turisk
Snowy Owl	27	1	Yates	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Short-eared Owl	5	3	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	11	3	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
* <u>Boreal Owl</u>	18	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
* <u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	2	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Chartier
Northern Shrike	5 - 30	8 records; 2 max	BOS region (NY & Ont.)	Several observers
Common Raven	5	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	8 - 23	5 max	Alfred, Ward	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Horned Lark	27	300	Oakfield	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Tufted Titmouse	1 - 31	3	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	5	2	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
Red-br. Nuthatch	1 - 31	2	Bennington	Seamans
"	1 - 31	2	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
"	14 - 29	4 max	Ward	Brooks
Carolina Wren	18	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	27	1	West Shelby	Turisk
Winter Wren	9	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Eastern Bluebird	9	5	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	18	2	Allegany	Baird
"	27	2	Porter	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
"	27	6	Ransomville	Morgante
"	30	7	Eden	Andrle
Hermit Thrush	26	1	Stevensville CA, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Porter	D'Anna et al
American Robin	18	3	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Watson, Lazarczyk
Northern Mockingbird	2 - 31	1	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	26	1	Youngstown	J Landau, Wojewodzki
"	29	1	Porter	Roberson
Cedar Waxwing	11	26	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	21	88	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	30	45	Lakeside Beach SP	Turisk
Yellow-r. Warbler	27	5	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Turisk, Morgantes
* <u>Bl.-thr. Gray Warb.</u>	17	1	Niagara Falls	Hilts
"	18	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, et al
Chipping Sparrow	10 - 30	3 max	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* <u>Lark Sparrow</u>	15; 25	1; 1	Porter (f)	D'Anna
"	16	1	Youngstown	Watson, et al
"	17	1	Porter	Lazarczyk, Hamilton
"	26	1	Youngstown	Landau, Wojewodzki
"	27	1	Porter	Klick, et al
Swamp Sparrow	11	2	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	5	Iroquois NWR	Turisk, Morgantes
"	27	2	Tonawanda WMA	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
White-thr. Sparrow	11	9	Tifft NP	Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	16	7	Porter	Watson, Rothman, Partridge
"	18 - 30	2 max	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	1	Porter	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Lapland Longspur	27	8	Oakfield	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Snow Bunting	19	25	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	900	Oakfield	Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
"	30	250	Yates	Turisk

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-w. Blackbird	19	9	Tonawanda	Chilton
Brown-head. Cowbird	1 - 29	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	22	34	Alden	Coniglio
"	25	32	Colden	J&K Landau
Purple Finch	19	1	Marilla	Holmes
"	21; 30	1; 1	Bennington	Seamans
"	22	8	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	4	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	27	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Turisk, Morgantes; Klick, Harris, Pawlicki
Common Redpoll	13	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Pine Siskin	6 - 30	94 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	2	Porter	Watson, Rothman
"	22; 31	1; 1	Orchard Park (?) (f)	Morgante

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: **286**

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month: **007**

Total for the year 2004: **293**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

#### Addenda/Deletions/Changes - 2003

<u>ADD</u> Black-headed Gull	12/27	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont	Bellerby
<u>ADD</u> Hooded Warbler	10/12	1	Portland	Hardenburg
<u>DELETE</u> Red-eyed Vireo	3/23	15	Harmony	Berry
Mute Swan	12/6 <u>TO</u> 12/26	5	Porter	Morgante
Northern Harrier	12/28	23	Iroquois NWR <u>TO</u> Porter	Morgante

#### Addenda - 2004

<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1/1	1	Iroquois NWR	Lazarczyk
<u>Tufted Duck</u>	1/24	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Roy
Osprey	3/25	4	Allegany SP	Lazarczyk
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	10/31	1	Lockport	Suggs
Lesser Black-backed Gull	7/24	1	Wilson	Pawlicki
N. Saw-whet Owl (banded)	10/5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 14, 22-26, 28, 29, 31	44	Wethersfield	Junkin
N. Saw-whet Owl (banded)	10/9, 12, 23, 26, 27; 11/1, 3	13	Allegany SP	LeBlanc
<u>Sedge Wren</u>	6/10	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler</u>	6/5	1	Allegany SP	Pawlicki
<u>Yellow-throated Warbler</u>	7/12	1	Chestnut Ridge SP	Pawlicki
Pine Warbler	6/5	2	Allegany SP	Pawlicki
<u>Clay-colored Sparrow</u>	6/13	3	Yorkshire	Pawlicki
<u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	3/4, 9, 11	1	Pembroke	Seamans

#### Errata - 2004 Prothonotary Noteworthy Records

Am. Coot <u>NOT</u> Willet	6/13	5	Bird Island Pier	Morgante
<u>DELETE</u> Am. Willet	12/26	3	Niagara Falls, ONT	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Mute Swan	9/5	13	Ft. Erie <u>NOT</u> Tifft NP	Yoerg, Henderson

nia Gull of the season among the myriad gulls in the lower Niagara River at the Robert Moses Power Plant in the Town of Lewiston in Niagara County. This exotic gull is very slightly darker-mantled than the adult Herring and Ring-billed Gulls with whom it shares the lower Niagara River gorge at Niagara Falls. Since it first appeared in the gorge at the Adam Beck Power Complex in November 1992 this gull, presumably the same bird, has made annual appearances in the lower river in late November, usually in the company of a flock of Ring-billed gulls on the rocky shoreline of the Robert Moses Power Complex (See *Prothonotary* 58: 12, December 1992). Less spectacular but equally of interest was the presence of a Lark Sparrow, a rare spring and fall vagrant, although occasional found in winter when it is commonly found visiting feeders in suburban locales in the company of other fringillids. Thus it was that on December 15th Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter went to the residence of Vicki Rothman on the Youngstown-Wilson Road in the Town of Porter in Niagara County where they joined Bill Broderick and other birders in scanning a large flock of Dark-eyed Juncos on the ground and subsequently confirmed her identification of 'an unusual bird' that had appeared at her feeder earlier that morning as a Lark Sparrow. It remained in residence on the premises until month's end, the habitat of trimmed lawn, shrubs and small trees apparently much to its liking.

## Scaup Decline and Research

Since the mid 1980s, the continental population of lesser and greater scaup has declined substantially. Breeding and wintering ground surveys indicate that the decline can be attributed to those populations that breed east of the Continental Divide and winter on the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways. However, it is unknown if the events that caused the decline occurred on wintering, staging, and/or breeding areas. The numbers of juveniles as well as adult female lesser scaup have declined in the U.S. duck harvest. This suggests that adult female survival and/or reproductive rates have declined. Several theories for the decline have been proposed, and are being studied.

One cause for concern has been the substantial increase in the number of scaup staging on portions of the lower Great Lakes where these birds consume large quantities of zebra mussels. Dr. Scott Petrie has recorded waterfowl days (an index of waterfowl use of

an area) for scaup at Long Point, Ontario. He documented a dramatic increase of scaup waterfowl days from 1987 (prior to the zebra mussel colonization of Long Point) to over 5 million in 1999.

The zebra mussel is a non-native mollusk that was introduced to Lake St. Clair in 1986, probably through the dumping of ship ballast water. In the absence of natural predators and with limited competition, zebra mussels rapidly increased in numbers and expanded their range throughout the Great Lakes. Studies have since reported densities in excess of 200,000 mussels per square meter in some portions of Lake Erie and Lake St Clair. Native bivalves, which averaged 10 individuals per square meter prior to zebra mussel colonization, have been almost completely displaced by this highly competitive species. Zebra mussels now dominate the lake bottom-dwelling community. They now are readily available to diving ducks, like scaup, that stage in the Great Lakes.

Zebra mussels are filter feeders and they accumulate sediment and contaminants [e.g., polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)] into their tissue more readily than native bivalves. These contaminants can then be passed up the food chain to the waterfowl that consume them. The tufted duck is closely related to scaup. When these birds were fed contaminated zebra mussels, they were shown to lay fewer and smaller eggs, with reduced hatchability and increased contaminant levels. Smaller ducklings were also produced, and adult female mortality increased. Therefore, the consumption of large quantities of zebra mussels on the lower Great Lakes may be contributing to the continental scaup decline.

**Prothonotary Index 2005: Volume 70**  
*by Karen Landau*

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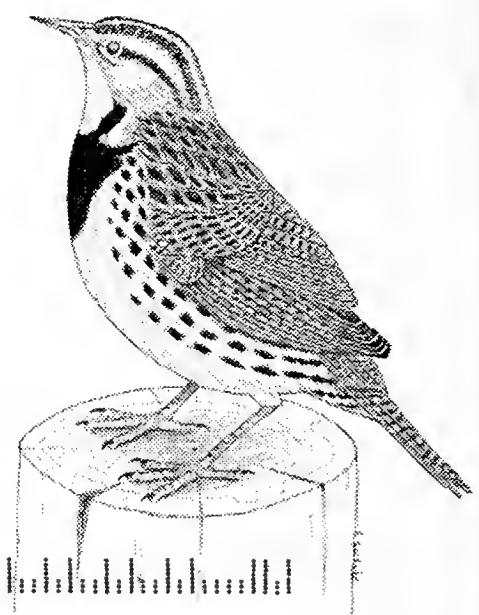
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<i>B.c. hutchinsii</i>		Red Crossbill	75
Cattle Egret	57, 83, 89	Red-eyed Vireo	60
Clay-colored Sparrow	62, 68, 75	Red-throated Loon	25, 57
Common Raven	27, 60, 67, 74, 84, 91	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	46
Common Yellowthroat	5	Ross's Goose	3, 15
Dark-eyed Junco	130	Rough-legged Hawk	102, 113
<i>J.h. oreganus</i>		Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird	130
Double-cr. Cormorant	57	Sandhill Crane	58, 120
Eared Grebe	89, 101, 111, 127	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	74
Eastern Kingbird	121	Sedge Wren	6, 60, 74
Franklin's Gull	91	Semipalmated Plover	58
Golden Eagle	26, 34, 43, 113	Semipalmated Sandpiper	59
Great Egret	6	Snow Goose	33
Greater Scaup	101	Snowy Egret	66
Greater White-fronted	3, 15, 33, 127	Swainson's Thrush	115
Goose		Townsend's Solitaire	5
Harris's Sparrow	63, 68	Tricolored Heron	57
Hoary Redpoll	18	Trumpeter Swan	57
Horned Grebe	127	Tufted Duck	26
Iceland Gull	67	Turkey Vulture	15, 25
Indigo Bunting	63	Western Kingbird	91
Jaeger species	114, 129	Western Sandpiper	90, 102
Kentucky Warbler	75	White-eyed Vireo	60, 74, 103, 114
Laughing Gull	17	White-winged Crossbill	116
"Lawrence's" Warbler	61, 68	White-winged Scoter	83, 89
Lesser Black-backed Gull	59, 84	Willet	4, 73
Loggerhead Shrike	35	Wilson's Storm Petrel	6
Merlin	4, 6, 16, 26, 34, 83, 90,	Worm-eating Warbler	62
	102, 113, 129	Yellow-throated Warbler	68, 75, 85, 92
Mew Gull	4		
Mute Swan	25, 73, 101		
Nashville Warbler	115		
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	105, 115		
Northern Gannet	3		
Northern Harrier	4		
Northern Shoveler	3, 15		
Northern Waterthrush	45		
Orange-crowned Warbler	130		
Orchard Oriole	63, 68		

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## **BOS website**



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

For more information about the study, please contact Dr. John Smith at (555) 123-4567 or via email at [john.smith@researchinstitute.org](mailto:john.smith@researchinstitute.org).

## **February – March Calendar**

**March 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Jim Landau (941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)).

**March 26: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for early spring migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna 731-4348 or dannapoter@wzrd.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104 north of Lockport.

**April 10: April Count:** All BOS members should participate. Contact: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or [mhsr@wzrd.com](mailto:mhsr@wzrd.com)).

**April 13: BOS Meeting at 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Brendan Klick will discuss “Statistical Analysis of BOS Count Data.”

**April 10: April Count: All BOS members should participate. Contact**

**April 24: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip.** This annual trip to the Hawk Watch will be led by Mike Zebehazy (BOS) and Bob Spahn (GOS). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 AM. The group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay (Monroe County) for a 9 AM rendezvous with the GOS. This trip may be canceled due to weather conditions. Contact Mike at [zebs@adelphia.net](mailto:zebs@adelphia.net) or 662-6987.

**April 27: BOS Meeting at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** The Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Team will present several research projects. Colleen Bell will discuss the study of avian migration in Western New York using tower mortality data. Melissa Mustillo will compare the spring and fall stopover durations of song birds. Kathryn Mattern will compare stopover durations at several different staging areas. Jennifer Urbanski and Jerry Dudziak will discuss a new method of estimating stopover length. Mike Hurban, Emily Caruana, and Sara Musilli will each discuss different aspects of the migration and stopover ecology of the Northern Saw-Whet Owl. These projects were completed under the sponsorship of Dr. Sara Morris, Associate Professor of Biology, Canisius College.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 71, No. 2 February, 2005

### THE MONTH: January

by Jerry Lazarczyk

January was a month of extremes although it averaged out to a near normal month in the categories of temperature, precipitation and sunshine. Snowfall was slightly above average. The first two weeks were almost the warmest ever for January, while the last two weeks challenged for the coldest ever. The abrupt change was unprecedented.

The average temperature of 23.8 °F was just under the norm but the variation was incredible. The absolute range of 74 °F (68 to -6) was the greatest ever in January, besting a 73 °F range record set in 1985. The first 14 days averaged 36.1 °F while the next two weeks only 11.9 °F. Three records were set during the month: 61 °F on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 68 °F on the 13<sup>th</sup> with a low of -6 °F on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

The 3.57 inches of total precipitation was within the normal range. Much of it fell as rain during the month's first half but all as snow in the wintry second half. Snowfall totaled 37 inches, about a foot more than usual in January. There were no major storms but most of this fell in light to moderate daily amounts from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. The ground was often bare during the mild first half but a decent snow cover became established during the last two weeks.

Sunshine became typically scarce in January although it was fairly abundant during the last week.

The monthly total of 29% was just below the normal of 31%. Six days were mostly sunny while 21 were mostly cloudy.

Winds were moderate during the month with especially gusty days on

the 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Lake Erie warmed to a near record 39 °F by the 13<sup>th</sup> but the severe cold allowed ice to form in the eastern basin by the 22<sup>nd</sup> when the lake temperature dove to 32 °F (a week later than usual).

Continued good January weather was a Godsend for the fascinating Lark Sparrow that continued to reside at the Vicki Rothman residence in Porter, NY since November of 2004. Any visit by a Lark Sparrow to our region would be exceptional. However, the bird also withstood the brutal weather in the second part of the month. Bill Watson said the Lark Sparrow's field



Boreal Owl photographed by Willie D'Anna off Rt 18 in the Town of Wilson on Jan 23, 2005.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
  
Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

**Society Officers:**

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Betsy Potter observed and photographed an Oregon subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco at their home. This rare junco subspecies continued to be seen in their neighborhood in the later portion of the month.

Fran Rew and Audrey Horbett separated the *E. a. alpestris* subspecies of Horned Lark from the more locally common *E. a. praticola* while scanning a flock of these birds on January 9<sup>th</sup> in Yates NY.

A large number (400) of American Black Ducks were seen on January 9<sup>th</sup> at Rock Point Provincial Park Ontario.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> a Northern Shoveler in Dunkirk Harbor was found there by Bill Watson. The Moshers reported a Black Scoter in Dunkirk Harbor on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Dunkirk Harbor continues to be an avian hotspot over the severest winter months.

mark changes with the season should provide additional points of interest to birders.

Another surprising visitor was the Boreal Owl seen in Wilson, NY. This exceptional bird was reported and photographed by Willie D'Anna toward the end of the month. This may be the same bird that was seen in the Wilson-Tuscarora State Park in December 2004. Both birds were seen by a number of birders. Meanwhile, an irruption of owls from the Arctic was experienced by birders in Ontario. BOS kept a vigilant eye for the Great Gray Owl and less abundant Northern Hawk Owl but none were reported in our Region. It would have been an exceptional event if either bird had been spotted in our region.

Willie D'Anna and



*Chipping Sparrow photographed by Willie D'Anna at a feeding station in the Town of Wilson on Jan 17, 2005*

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## **2005 Region 1 January Waterfowl Count Summary**

*by Jim Landau*

**Overview:** The New York State Ornithological Association (formerly the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state's 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. Region 1, assigned to the Buffalo Ornithological Society, consists of the New York State portion of the BOS study area and includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario. Final results of the state waterfowl count will be published in "The Kingbird" and posted on the NYSOA website at: <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>.

**Weather:** The week leading up to this year's count period (1/15 – 1/23) was notable for record and near record high temperatures (68 two days before the start), with open water on Lake Erie and many of the streams and tributaries. But that was soon to change. By Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, Western New York began to experience some of the coldest temperatures of the season, akin to those encountered during the course of last year's count. As the count period progressed the eastern end of Lake Erie locked up with ice, along with almost all of the slower moving creeks. The area

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Pied-billed Grebe	21; 25	8; 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker; Watson
"	31	1	N. Tonawanda	Watson
Horned Grebe	9	3	Wilson	Rew, Horbett
D.-crested Cormorant	8	67	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	20	9	Tonawanda	Sharon
"	21; 25	53; 91	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker; Watson
Great Blue Heron	4	1	Williamsville	Christensen
"	5	1	Franklinville	DeSha
"	23	12	Lewiston	Pawlicki
"	23	10	Queenston	S&T O'Donnell
"	25	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	31	4	Motor I.	Watson
Mute Swan	14	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Tundra Swan	23	126	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	29	58	Grand I.	Sowinski
"	31	12	Strawberry I.	Watson
Wood Duck	1	1	Fort Erie	Rew, Horbett, Walker
"	8	1	Fort Erie	Pawlicki, Watson
"	21	2	Silver Creek	Rew, Horbett, Walker
"	30	1	Dufferin I.	Watson, Pawlicki
Gadwall	9	2	Rock Pt. PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett
"	30	1	Dufferin I.	Watson, Pawlicki
American Black Duck	9	<u>400</u>	Rock Pt. PP	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Shoveler	<u>25</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Northern Pintail	8	1	Dufferin I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	30	1	Dufferin I.	Watson, Pawlicki
Green-winged Teal	30	2	Goat I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
Canvasback	7	890	Niagara Falls, NY	Watson
"	29	2400	Grand I.	Sowinski
Redhead	8	145	Fort Erie	Watson
"	29	200	Grand I.	Sowinski
Ring-necked Duck	8	13	Lewiston Res.	Watson, Pawlicki
Greater Scaup	7	2600	Grand I.	Watson, Lazarczyk
Lesser Scaup	7	5	Grand I.	Watson, Lazarczyk
Scaup species	29	1200	Grand I.	Sowinski
King Eider	16	1	Ft. Niagara	Yoerg, Henderson
Surf Scoter	16	1	Fort Erie	Pawlicki, Rising et al
White-winged Scoter	16	280	Ft. Niagara to Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Black Scoter	<u>30</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Long-tailed Duck	16	265	Ft. Niagara to Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	600	Queenston	Watson
Bufflehead	16	40	Ft. Niagara to Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Goldeneye	16	185	Ft. Niagara to Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Hooded Merganser	21; 25	17; 10	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker
Red-br. Merganser	8	38	Fort Erie	Watson
"	16	85	Ft. Niagara to Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruddy Duck	9	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	15; 21	1; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Rew, Walker
Bald Eagle	5; 16	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; S&T O'Donnell
"	15	1	Buckhorn I. SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	16	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Harrier	1	1	Franklinville	DeSha
"	12	1	Eden	Andrle
"	15	1	Dunkirk Airport	Moshers, Benton
"	16	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
Rough-legged Hawk	1	1	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3; 5	8; 6	Yates	S&T O'Donnell; Turisk
"	9	2	Wainfleet	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	2	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	4	Yates	Turisk
"	16	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Rising et al
"	20	1	Evans	Hentz
Merlin	7; 11; 29	4; 2; 4	UB south campus	Yoerg
Wild Turkey	16	21	Royalton	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	35	Leon	Yoerg, Henderson
American Coot	9	11	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	25	46	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Iceland Gull	8; 30	11; 28	Niag. Falls to Lewiston Res.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	25	Adam Beck Hydro	D'Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	8	2	Fort Erie, Niag. Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	12	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	30	3	Niag. Falls, Adam Beck	Watson, Pawlicki
Glaucous Gull	8	3	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki, S&T O'Donnell
"	30	3	Niag. Falls, Adam Beck	Watson, Pawlicki
Great Black-b. Gull	25	222	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Eastern Screech-Owl	16	1	Oakfield	S&T O'Donnell
Snowy Owl	5; 9; 15	1; 1; 1	Yates	Turisk; Rew et al; Turisk
"	16	1	Port Dalhousie, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Barred Owl	1	1	Carrollton	Eaton
"	30	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-eared Owl	5	6	Yates	Turisk
"	9 - 28	9 max	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	14; 23	8; 13	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
"	15	2	Dunkirk Airport	Moshers, Benton
"	15; 30	6; 1	Yates	Turisk; S&T O'Donnell
"	23	3	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	1	Wheatfield	S&T O'Donnell
<u>Boreal Owl</u>	23, 28, 31	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2	1	Hamburg	Zebehazy, Happ
Pileated Woodpecker	30	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Shrike	1 - 30	10 repts; 2 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Raven	8	2	Great Valley	DeSha
"	30	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Lark:				
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	9	2	Yates	Rew, Horbett
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	9	16	Chautauqua	Mosher, Farver
"	9	16	Yates	Rew, Horbett
Tufted Titmouse	2 - 31	3 max	Westfield (f)	Hentz
Red-br. Nuthatch	16	2	Porter (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27; 30	1; 1	Westfield (f)	Hentz
"	30	1	Dufferin I.	Watson
Carolina Wren	1 - 29	11 repts; 2 max	Throughout BOS territory	Several observers
Winter Wren	1	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	1; 23	1; 1	Carrollton	Eaton
"	29	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Golden-cr. Kinglet	1	12	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Eastern Bluebird	1; 9	2; 8	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	5	5	Wilson	D'Anna
"	9	9	Wainfleet	Yoerg, Henderson
Hermit Thrush	16	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
Gray Catbird	16	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Goat I. SP	Watson, Pawlicki
Northern Mockingbird	1 - 30	1	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	16	1	Ft. Niagara	Yoerg, Henderson
American Pipit	5	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	5 - 31	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Chipping Sparrow	6 - 31	3 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	1	Portland	Mosher, Farver
Field Sparrow	9	1	Pomfret	Mosher
<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	7	1	Porter (f)	Watson et al
"	16	1	Porter (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-thr. Sparrow	1 - 31	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	1	2	South Park, Bflo.	Rew, Horbett, Walker
"	2 - 30	1 max	Sinking Ponds, Elma	Holmes
"	16	10	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	8	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
"	24	4	Brant	Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	6 - 31	2 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	7	4	Porter	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	16	2	Porter (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Dark-eyed Junco				
<i>J. h. oreganus</i>	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Lapland Longspur	28 - 31	5 max	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	2	Wilson	S O'Donnell
Snow Bunting	9	30	Chautauqua	Mosher, Farver
"	9	28	Yates	Rew, Horbett
"	21; 30	25; 34	Franklinville	DeSha
Red-w. Blackbird	8	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	23; 26	12; 12	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	26	19	Tonawanda	Watson
Common Grackle	5	2	Yates	Turisk
Brown-head. Cowbird	18 - 26	5 max	Tonawanda	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Purple Finch	2 - 28	12 max	Farmersville	DeSha
"	24	1	Carrollton	Eaton
"	28	6	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	30	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Redpoll	9	2	Rock Pt. PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22-27; 31	1; 10 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	6	Porter	S O'Donnell
Pine Siskin	2 - 31	23 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	4 - 31	30 max	Franklinville	DeSha
"	7	10	Porter	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	16	1	Porter (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Eden	Andrle
"	29	4	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	29	15	Porter	S O'Donnell

Also observed this month: Canada Goose, Mallard, Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, European Starling, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (*hyemalis*), Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **000**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** **103**

**Total for the year 2005:** **103**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

logged seven overnight low temperatures in the single digits or below zero. By the second weekend of the count period, a large regional storm deposited significant snow accumulations, and a few parties reported that challenging road conditions, coupled with formidable wind chill factors and poor visibility, hindered their efforts afield.

**Compilation:** The table below lists the species, their accumulated tallies and trending patterns, if any. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Species	Number seen	Comments
Canada Goose	3429	variable
Tundra Swan	126	variable (G)
Wood Duck	9	average (I, P)
Gadwall	17	low (E)
American Wigeon	14	variable (D)
Am. Black Duck	54	record low
Mallard	5086	7-year low
Mallard X Black Duck	1	rare (R)
Canvasback	15749	high
Redhead	92	18-year low
Ring-necked Duck	2	8-year low (F)
Greater Scaup	6262	7-year low
Lesser Scaup	5	20-year low (E, H)
Scaup species	1	
King Eider	1	rare (B)
Surf Scoter	1	uncommon (F)
White-winged Scoter	313	variable
Long-tailed Duck	1526	variable
Bufflehead	2107	high
Common Goldeneye	856	record low
Hooded Merganser	47	average
Common Merganser	1598	variable
Red-breasted Merganser	371	variable
Ruddy Duck	3	uncommon (G, I)
Pied-billed Grebe	8	high (I)
Horned Grebe	3	variable (A)
Double-crested Cormorant	54	high (H,I)
American Coot	34	ties 18-year low (G, I)
Other/Unidentified	340	
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>26</b>	average
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>38109</b>	average

**Notes:** The 51<sup>st</sup> Region 1 New York State January Waterfowl Count was noteworthy primarily for low numbers: Mallard saw a 7-year low. American Black Duck (54) is an all-time low. Redhead (92) is the lowest since 1992. Ring-necked Duck (2) was largely absent, an 8-year low. Greater Scaup (6262) is the lowest since 1997. Lesser Scaup (5) saw a 20-year low. Common Goldeneye (856) came in at an all-time low. American Coot (34) ties a low last seen in 1987. Welcome sightings included a female King Eider

(found on Lake Ontario near Old Fort Niagara), a Surf Scoter (between Jaeger Rocks and the Peace Bridge), and three Ruddy Ducks (one off Grand Island and two at Dunkirk Harbor). All in all, a concerted effort resulted in 38109 individual birds logged over the course of 83.25 hours.

Section	Compilers	Area(s) surveyed
A	Roberta Vallone	Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott)
B	Peter Yoerg	Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara)
C	Bob Deleon	Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls (NY)
D	Mike Zebehazy	Niagara-On-The-Lake to Niagara Falls (ON)
E	Gerry Rising, Jim Landau	Buffalo Harbor to Goat Island (NY)
F	Gerry Rising, Don Roberson	Jaeger Rocks to Horseshoe Falls (ON)
G	Don Brasure	Grand Island, NY
H	Dave Suggs	Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek)
I	Fran Rew	Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line)
J	Bob Sundell	Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake
K	Tim Baird	Olean & Salamanca
L	Doris Burton	Allegany County
M	Gail Seamans	Batavia
N	Sonny Knowlton	Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs
O	Paul Hess	Iroquois NWR
P	Bill Burch	Amherst, Clarence, Cheektowaga, Lancaster
Q	Tom Connare	Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery
R	Liz Wells	South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek

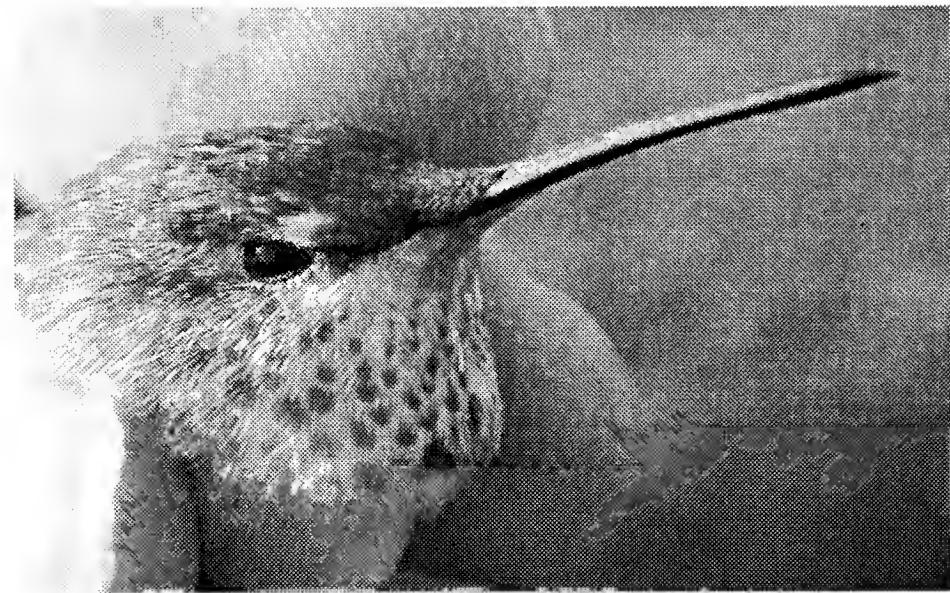
**Bald Eagle Report:** We are also asked to report any Bald Eagle sightings during the count to the DEC. A total of five individuals were observed over the count period. Four adults were seen on 1/16/2005 on Section K. One adult was seen in Salamanca along the Allegheny River. Two adults were seen at noon near the Allegheny Reservoir. One adult was seen east of Salamanca along the Allegheny River. One immature Bald Eagle was seen on 1/20/2005 on Motor Island in the Niagara River on Section G.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks go to the following birders who participated in this year's waterfowl census:

Tim Baird, Tom Bearss, Don Brasure, Bill Broderick, Bill Burch, Olive Burch, Doris Burton, Ken Cohen, Dick Collins, Mary Collins, Tom Connare, Bob Deleon, Donna Deleon, Mike Desha, Steve Eaton, Mike Galas, Doug Happ, Barbara Henderson, Paul Hess, Mary Jordan, Sonny Knowlton, Jim Landau, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tom LeBlanc, Bob Lipp, Max Mason, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Fran Rew,

Gerry Rising, Don Roberson, Jim Rozanski, Gail Seamans, Dave Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Bob Sundell, Roberta Vallone, Barb Walker, Bill Watson, Liz Wells, Peter Yoerg, and Mike Zebehazy.

I would like to make a special note of thanks to Bill Burch, who has been the BOS Compiler of this count for the past nine years. His thorough, meticulous record keeping allowed me to make sense of the scope of the project. Bill's familiarity with the study area's birds and their habitats (and the birders who study them) and his easygoing willingness to share that knowledge has enabled me to take the project over.



Rufous Hummingbird photographed by Allen Chartier in Niagara Falls, Ontario on December 2, 2004.

## Update: Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*), immature female

Contributions from Allen Chartier, Jean Iron, and Kayo Roy.

Additional information has been made available to the BOS regarding the Rufous Hummingbird identified in Niagara Falls, Ontario during November and December, 2004. The bird was frequenting the sugar feeder of Janice M. Haines. The following information comes from an Ontario Rare Bird Report submitted by Allen Chartier, and photographs provided by Allen Chartier, Jean Iron, and Kayo Roy and made available by Kayo Roy to the editor. A previous article describing this particular bird was published in The Prothonotary, Vol 70, No. 12, pp 132-134. Note: this particular bird was incorrectly called a male Rufous Hummingbird in (The Prothonotary, Vol 71, No. 1).

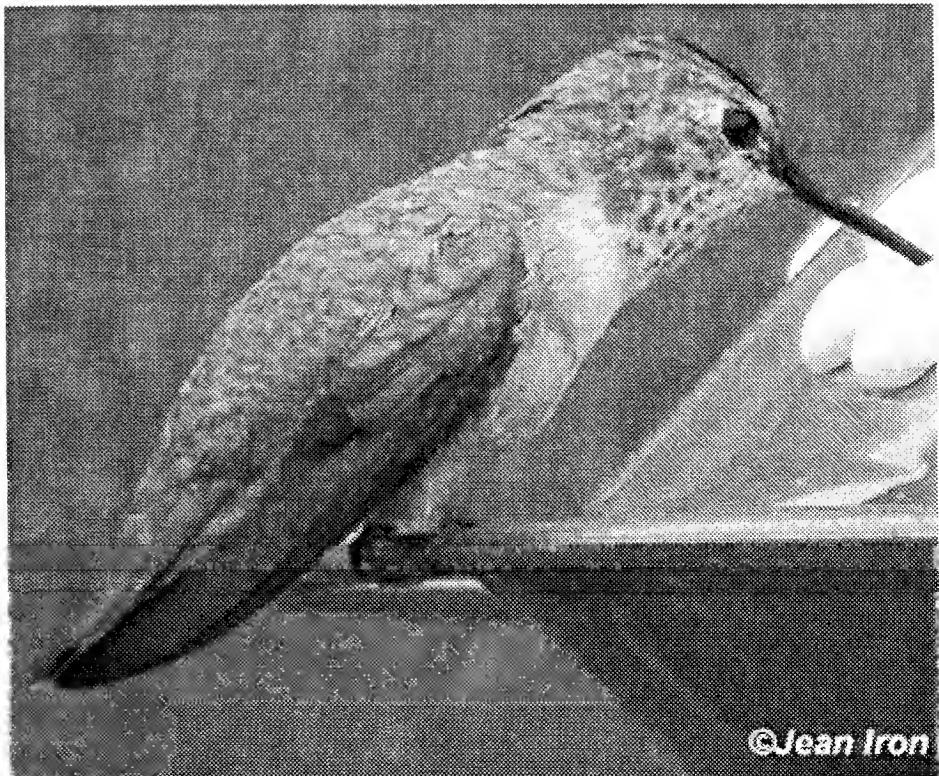
Description excerpt from the Ontario Rare Bird Report or Allen Chartier:

**Description:** Upon arriving at the home, I was able to see the bird in binoculars within about 10-minutes, and confirmed that it was a *Selasphorus* hummingbird due to its peach-buff flanks and under tail coverts four gorget feathers in the bottom center of the throat. Based on this, and photos I'd previously seen of the amount of rufous in the tail, it was clearly a Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird, which was the main differentiation that needed to be made, and one reason I was capturing and banding it. The bird was easily captured for banding, and it was aged, sexed, and identified in that order. The proper use of Stiles (1972) for banders requires that an individual Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird in-hand be correctly aged and sexed before a species determination can be made (B. Sargent, N. Newfield, and F. G. Stiles, pers. comm.).

**Age:** The bird was aged as HY (hatch-year, or immature) based on the presence of shallow groovings on the basal 60-70% of the upper mandible. This is universally recognized as the most reliable method for age determination in hummingbirds (Ortiz-Crespo, 1972).

**Sex:** The green, white, and buff coloration with a pattern of iridescent gorget feathers (4 on this bird) on the lower center of the throat is suggestive of female (see photo above). The pattern of rufous on the central tail feather can also be helpful, with juvenile males having at least the basal half entirely rufous. This bird showed very little rufous at the base of the central tail feather, being mostly green with a black tip. No rufous was visible on the central tail feather beyond the upper tail coverts. This is consistent with a female also (Stiles fig. 2). The bird was confirmed as female based on wing length, which was 44.59 mm and was unambiguously conclusive for female, whether it was Rufous or Allen's.

**Species:** Given that the bird was an after hatch-year (adult) female, using Stiles we can determine whether this bird was a Rufous or Allen's Hummingbird using several additional measurements and observations. Known age and sex Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds are best distinguished in-hand by measuring the widths of the central tail feather (r1) and the outer tail feather (r5), and noting the shape of the second tail feather from the center (r2). If a bird shows a clearly "notched" r2, then it is easily identified as a Rufous. Using Stiles' Figure 3, the shape of r2 on the Niagara Falls bird most closely matched Cb, for immature female Rufous, and, was very subtle in-hand, as well as in photos (see photo below), a condition that could be approached by some Allen's Hummingbirds. The shape of this notch was more suggestive of Rufous than Allen's, but alone would not be conclusive. So,



©Jean Iron

the identification was dependent on the measurements of the tail feather widths (Stiles table 1).

It is important to note here briefly that there are two subspecies of Allen's Hummingbird. One is the widespread and migratory nominate subspecies (*Selasphorus sasin sasin*) breeding from coastal northern California to coastal southern California and mainly migrating southward into Baja California, Mexico. The other is a more range-restricted and generally non-migratory subspecies (*S. s. sedentarius*), breeding on California's Channel Islands and the adjacent mainland (around Los Angeles). *Sedentarius* presents some problems, because it is intermediate between *S. s. sasin* and Rufous in some characters. And, while *sasin* has a shorter bill than Rufous, *sedentarius* has a longer bill! If *sedentarius* were entirely sedentary, this would not be an issue. But, I've been told (N. Newfield, pers. comm.) that the first specimen of Allen's Hummingbird collected in Louisiana actually fits *sedentarius*! So, however remote the possibility, *sedentarius* must also be considered.

The width of the central rectrix (r1) on the Niagara Falls bird was measured as 8.29 mm.

HY-F Rufous ranges from 7.8 - 9.5 mm. HY-F (*S. s. sasin*) Allen's ranges from 6.9 - 8.2 mm. HY-F (*S. s. sedentarius*) Allen's ranges from 7.3 - 8.4. So, this measurement is slightly above the range of (*S. s. sasin*) and near the upper size range of (*S. s. sedentarius*), while it is near the midrange for Rufous. This measurement is strongly suggestive of Rufous, but not conclusive.

The width of the outer tail feather (r5) on the Niagara Falls bird was measured as 4.16 mm. HY-F Rufous ranges from 3.2 - 4.7 mm. HY-F (*S. s. sasin*) Allen's ranges from 2.4 - 3.3 mm. HY-F (*S. s. seden-*

*tarius*) Allen's ranges from 2.6 - 3.3 mm. Since this measurement falls well above the range for either subspecies of Allen's, it is conclusive for Rufous. (It is also above the midrange for Rufous)

For additional support, we can look at Wing Length (wing chord), Bill Length (exposed culmen), and Tail Length.

This bird's Wing Length of 44.59 mm was longer than that of HY-F (*S. s. sasin*) Allen's, but slightly below the upper range for HY-F (*S. s. sedentarius*) Allen's, and above the midrange for Rufous. Wing Length suggests Rufous.

This bird's Bill Length of 17.53 mm was near the upper limit for both Rufous and (*S. s. sasin*) Allen's, but only slightly above the midrange for (*S. s. sedentarius*) Allen's. Bill Length was not useful.

Tail measurements are often not very useful, but this bird's Tail Length of 27 mm was 2 mm above the range of (*S. s. sasin*) Allen's, and near the upper limit for Rufous. Unfortunately, Stiles does not provide tail measurements for HY-F (*S. s. sedentarius*) Allen's. Tail length suggests Rufous.

There was fairly extensive body molt on this bird, and the outer 6 primaries (p5-p10) were old and worn, contrasting with the blacker, fresher inner primaries. The inner rectrix (r1), as well as r2, and r5 were fresh, while r3 and r4 were worn. The bird had a fat code of 0 (0-3 scale) and weighed 3.03 grams."



Rufous Hummingbird photographed by Allen Chartier in Niagara Falls, Ontario on December 2, 2004.

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
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<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

- April – June Calendar**
- March 1 - May 15:** Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Jim Landau (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).
- April 24: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip.** This annual trip to the Hawk Watch will be led by Mike Zebehazy (BOS) and Bob Spahn (GOS). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 AM. The group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay for a 9 AM rendezvous with the GOS. This trip may be weather canceled. Contact Mike at zebs@adelphia.net or 662-6987.
- April 27: BOS Meeting at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** The Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Team (Colleen Bell, Melissa Mustillo, Kathryn Mattern, Jennifer Urbanski, Emily Caruana, Sara Musilli, Jerry Dudziak, and Mike Hurban mentored by Dr. Sara Morris) will present a variety of avian migration topics.
- May 7: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach** for warblers. Meet at the Tifft NP at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (674-5781)
- May 11: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Rick Vetter and Joan Suther will present a program on "The Natural History of Madagascar." The talk centers on birds and wildlife with excursions about people, landscape, lifestyle, and plants of this country.
- May 15: May Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or rldeleon@yahoo.com) BOS members should plan to participate.
- May 25: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Glenn Johnson, Chairman of the Department of Biology at the SUNY Potsdam presents, "Conservation of the Spruce Grouse in the Adirondacks."
- June 8: Wednesday. The Annual June Picnic** will be held 6PM at Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor Center. Bring your own food and plan for a short hike.
- June 10: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West St., Port Colborne, Ontario) Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 71, No. 3 March, 2005

### THE MONTH: February

by Mike Zebehazy

February was uneventful and quiet as it often is in the Buffalo area. With a frozen lake negating any significant lake effect and a coastal storm track, no major storms occurred in our region. All major parameters: temperature, precipitation, snowfall, and sunshine, were close to normal for February.

The month began mild and dry with no measurable precipitation occurring during the first seven days. Temperatures peaked at a spring-like 52 °F on the 6th. A rainy mild period on the 14-15th briefly cleared much of the ground of snow, but a pattern change brought colder than usual conditions for the remainder of the month, along with small daily snowfalls. There were no major snows, the largest fall being just over 3 inches, but the month did end with the region on the edge of a coastal system with light snow falling.

The month mirrored January to a lesser degree, with a mild first half followed by a cold second half, but not nearly as extreme. No records were set during the month.

Measurable snow fell on 11 consecutive days (16-26th) but the amounts were trifling. Only three days have had more than four inches for the entire winter season. Snow covered the ground for virtually all of February, but depths were quite modest.

February was a brighter month than January but still totaled just 35 percent of the possible sunshine, again close to normal. Winds were relatively light for the month and Lake Erie was mainly ice covered.

(Weather summary from the *National Weather Forecast Service* in Buffalo, NY).

Twenty-one species of notable waterfowl highlight this month's

records. Some species were said to number in the tens of thousands according to the Dial-a-bird report of February 10. Primary locations were Dunkirk Harbor, Fort Erie, the upper Niagara River, and Fort Niagara. At Dunkirk Harbor, a Ross's Goose was first reported to Dial-a-bird on February 19. It was seen off and on for the rest of the month, usually at the west end of the harbor near Memorial Park. Elsewhere in this issue is a report of the BOS trip to Dunkirk Harbor on the 13<sup>th</sup> where 15 species of waterfowl were seen.

Courting Bald Eagles attempting to occupy an old cormorant nest on Strawberry Island were observed from Aqua Lane at the foot of Sheridan Drive in the Town of Tonawanda. Another nest, under construction by two adult eagles, was found on the north end of Navy Island. It can be viewed from the northwest trail at Buckhorn Island State Park.

Peter Yoerg continues to monitor the Merlins at the UB south campus, a personal project that has continued for seven years.

The Killdeer of February 5 was found along a muddy stream on the east side of North Beebe Road, just north of Wilson-Burt Road.

Seven owl species stand out in this month's reports (six in the records plus Screech Owl). These include a Snowy



Ross's Goose photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Dunkirk Harbor on February 23, 2005.

- |    |   |
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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

Production:  
  
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Owl seen at the same location in Pomfret for nearly the entire month. While viewing this bird as it stood on the ground in the snow, two observers watched it walk further into the scrub, drop down into the snow and virtually disappear from site. This could explain why the bird was not found on some days.

Short-eared Owls were reported at Niagara-Orleans Countyline Road, and Marshall and Lakeshore Roads in Yates, on Dickersonville Road in Porter and at East High Street and Keck Road in Lockport.

With all the reports of Great Gray Owl just north and east of our territory in Canada it didn't seem too far-fetched to expect one somewhere in our region. However, only one of this species turned up in New York State, far from us at Cape Vincent at the source of the St. Lawrence outside Watertown.

A Yellow-rumped Warbler continued at a yard in Orchard Park

every day this month and a White-throated Sparrow was at the same location all month as well.

Via Dial-a-bird, the Lark Sparrow was reported again on February 13 at the same location in Niagara County where many have observed it during the last two months.

Willie D'Anna described in extensive detail an "Oregon Junco" seen on his property and compared it to the distinguishing features of other Dark-eyed Junco subspecies.

From Bush Road on Grand Island comes a report of a very early arriving Common Grackle on the 15<sup>th</sup> and another was spotted on Paramount Parkway in the Town of Tonawanda on the 16th.

The grand total of 116 species, subspecies and hybrids for the year is a bit low compared to previous years.

(Thanks for the assistance of Bob Andrle and Gerry Rising for editing, David Suggs for his Dial-a-bird reports and all those who submitted individual reports.)

## Northern Chautauqua County Field Trip

by Bill Watson

Five field trip participants met at the Dunkirk Harbor Pier, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am for the Northern Chautauqua County Field Trip led by Dick Miga. The day was clear and sunny with temperatures rising from 20 to 26 °F by noon, but light east winds of 5 mph made it feel colder. The east winds helped blow the mist on the water toward the lake resulting in good visibility. Fifteen species of ducks were observed with abundant Mallards, Greater Scaup, and Common Mergansers. We also observed White-winged Scoter, a very-rare-in-February Black Scoter, a female and two male Northern Pintails, and Pied-billed Grebe. From Deer Street we observed two more male Northern Pintails, another Black Scoter, and a very-rare-in-February Northern Shoveler. Black Scoters between January 27<sup>th</sup> and March 28<sup>th</sup> and Northern Shovelers between December 18<sup>th</sup> and March 5<sup>th</sup> required written verification reports. There were also 4 Great Blue Herons and a Cooper's Hawk sitting on the close break wall, but a previously reported Black-crowned Night-Heron was not found. Impressive numbers at the harbor were 64 Double-crested Cormorants, 26 American Coots, about 200 Great Black-backed Gulls, and 17 Hooded Mergansers.

Dick Miga then led us on a tour of the surrounding county side. At the Chautauqua County Airport there was a beautiful dark phase Rough-legged Hawk. At Lake Erie State Park we found a Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and a Purple Finch. On Webster Road in the Town of Pomfret twelve Tom Wild Turkeys were counted as they marched across a snowy field. Although we could not find the Snowy Owl at the intersection of Cummings and Stockton Roads, we did hear Horned Larks. On the way home the pair of Bald Eagles was observed on Strawberry Island bringing our raptor total to six species and our species total to 45.



Sharp-shinned Hawk  
photographed by  
Willie D'Anna in his  
yard on February 19,  
2005.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Common Loon	5	1	Golden Hill SP	Watson, D'Anna et al
Pied-billed Grebe	5 - 20	8 max	Dunkirk Harbor	Several observers
"	24	1	N.Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Horned Grebe	2	7	Shadigee	Watson
"	5	13	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	5	27	Shadigee	D'Anna, DiTommaso
* Red-necked Grebe	5	1	Fort Erie	Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	8; 12	7; 4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	9	60 nests	Strawberry 1.	Watson
"	13; 20	64;107	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS); Watson
Great Blue Heron	13; 20	4; 8	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS); Watson
"	15 - 23	29 max	Motor I.	Watson, S & T O'Donnell
"	27	8	Queenston	D'Anna, DiTommaso
* Black-cr. Night-Heron	5; 6; 24	1; 1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	S & T O'Donnell et al
* Snow Goose	18 - 27	1 (blue)	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers et al
* <u>Ross's Goose</u>	25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Mute Swan	5	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Tundra Swan	5	75	Strawberry I.	Morgante
"	7; 8	135; 80	Beaver 1. SP	Watson
"	9; 23	5; 2	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	20	110	Buckhorn 1. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	20	Grand I.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	83	Fort Erie	Watson
Gadwall	12	1	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	20	2	Buckhorn 1. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1	Tonawanda	Watson
American Black Duck	3	9	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	20	7	Randolph	Baird, DeSha, Blacc
"	24	26	Fort Erie	Watson
Northern Shoveler	<u>13</u>	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS)
Northern Pintail	13; 20	5; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk (BOS); Watson
"	15	2	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	24	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker
Canvasback	13; 20	20; 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS); Watson
"	24	3415	Fort Erie	Watson
Redhead	8; 12	78;21	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	13; 20	1; 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS); Watson
"	20; 24	3;183	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	22	43	Grand 1.	Hess
Ring-necked Duck	8	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1	Grand I.	Rew, Yoerg, S&T O'Donnell
"	24	13	Fort Erie	Watson
"	24	2	Strawberry I.	Watson
Greater Scaup	5	2000	Strawberry I.	Morgante
"	24	3800	Fort Erie	Watson
Lesser Scaup	6; 20	2; 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	24	20	N.Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
King Eider	21; 24	1; 1	Strawberry I.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Surf Scoter	5	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	5; 13	3; 4	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante; S&T O'Donnell
"	24; 27	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker et al
White-winged Scoter	2; 5	31; 72	Olcott	Watson; Watson, Pawlicki
"	5; 11; 27	550 max	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante; S&T O'Donnell; D'Anna et al
"	6; 20	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS)
Black Scoter	<u>13; 20</u>	2; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS); Watson et al
Long-tailed Duck	2	250	Olcott	Watson
"	5; 27	600; 400	Fort Niagara SP	Morgante; Zebehazy, Happ
"	24	620	Queenston	Watson
"	27	2300	Lewiston	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Common Merganser	24	245	Fort Erie	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	24	342	Fort Erie	Watson
Ruddy Duck	<u>6</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	<u>20</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
Bald Eagle	5 - 27	2 max	Strawberry I.	Morgante, Watson, Lazarczyk et al
"	6	3	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	6	2	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
"	6; 12	2; 2	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	9; 20; 27	2; 2; 3	Allegany Res.	Baird, DeSha, LeBlanc
"	13; 20	2; 5	Navy I.	S&T O'Donnell, Yoerg, Henderson
"	1	1	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
"	19	1	Machias	DeSha
"	20	1 imm	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	2	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Motor I.	Zebehazy, Happ
* Northern Goshawk	<u>3</u>	1	Bethany	Beattie
Rough-legged Hawk	1 - 27	5 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Merlin	<u>1 - 27</u>	6 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
* Killdeer	5	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Watson
Iceland Gull	5	5	Adam Beck Hydro	Morgante
"	24	5	Adam Beck Hydro	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	1	Lewiston Res.	Watson, Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	21	1	Lewiston Res.	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	2	Fort Erie	Pawlicki, Watson
"	24	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Pawlicki, Watson
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Morgante
"	20	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Pawlicki, Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24	1	Lewiston Res.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Great Black-b. Gull	13; 20	200; 88	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson (BOS); Watson
* Great Horned Owl	3 - 28	1 max	BOS territory	Several observers
Snowy Owl	6	1	Pomfret	Moshers, Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Stockton	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	1	Pomfret	Zebehazy, Happ
"	27	1	Pomfret	Pawlicki, Horst
Barred Owl	6	1	Arkwright	Yoerg, Henderson
* Long-eared Owl	3	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter
"	5	3	Yates	D'Anna et al
Short-eared Owl	5; 13	3; 4	Yates	Watson, D'Anna et al; S&T O'Donnell
"	19	4	Porter	S&T O'Donnell, Lazarczyk
"	21	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Rosenburg et al
* Nor. Saw-whet Owl	15;17;28	2; 1; 1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Red-headed Wdpkr.	6	1	Pt. Gratiot	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Shrike	5 - 27	2 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Common Raven	9	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	20	1	South Valley	Baird, DeSha, LeBlanc
"	22	1	W. Almond	Watson, Pawlicki, Lazarczyk
Homed Lark	2 - 27	150 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Tufted Titmouse	5	1	Wilson	Watson
"	26	1	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
Red-br. Nuthatch	20	1	Stockton	Watson, Pawlicki
Brown Creeper	26	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Carolina Wren	1 - 28	1	Franklinville (f)	DeSha
"	4; 8	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	5	1	Fort Erie	Morgante
"	5	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Morgante '
"	6	1	Pt. Gratiot	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Sharon
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3 - 27	8 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Eastern Bluebird	2	4	Conewango	Baird
Northern Mockingbird	27	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Horst
* Brown Thrasher	27	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Cedar Waxwing	15	8	Salamanca	Baird
Yellow-r. Warbler	2	2	Wilson	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Chipping Sparrow	6-28	3	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Song Sparrow	3; 17; 22	1; 2; 2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
* Swamp Sparrow	17	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
White-thr. Sparrow	1-28	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	3;22	1;2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	11	7	Four Mile Creek SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	22		Angelica	Watson, Pawlicki, Lazarczyk
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
* White-cr. Sparrow	5-28	2 max	Wilson (f)	Watson, D'Anna, Potter
"	8	1	Bethany	Beattie
Dark-eyed Junco				
<i>J. h. oreganus</i>	6; 13	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Lapland Longspur	2; 13	14; 5	Wilson	Watson; S&T O'Donnell

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Bunting	2	40	Wilson	Watson
"	5	1200	Yates	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	6	20	Bethany	Beattie
"	24	45	Eden	Andrle
"	27	400	Carlton	Zebehazy, Happ
"	28	10	Machias	DeSha
Red-w. Blackbird	1-27	5 max	BOS Study Area	Several observers
Common Grackle	15	1	Grand I.	Sharon
"	16; 17	1; 1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	20	2	South Valley	Baird, DeSha, LeBlanc
Brown-head. Cowbird	5	1	Somerset (f)	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	18	3	Lancaster	Morgante
"	20	50	South Valley	Baird, DeSha, LeBlanc
"	27	2	Chippawa, Ont.	S&T O'Donnell
Purple Finch	1 - 28	9 max	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	1 - 28	8 max	Franklinville	DeSha
"	13	1	Lake Erie SP	Watson (BOS)
"	22	8	Angelica	Watson, Pawlicki, Lazarczyk
"	22	4	W. Almond	Watson, Pawlicki, Lazarczyk
Common Redpoll	6; 11	6; 1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Pine Siskin	1 - 28	20 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter et al
"	1 - 28	6 max	Franklinville (f)	DeSha

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **103**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** **013**

**Total for the year 2005:** **116**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## MANY THANKS TO ATLASERS!

by Valerie Freer

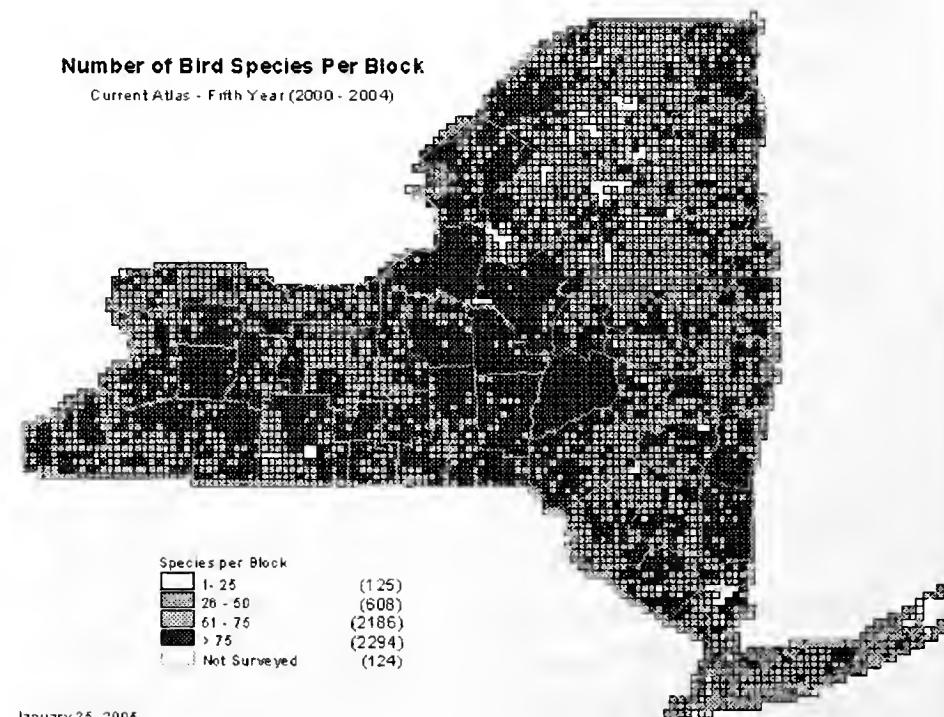
Five years of Atlas field work are complete, the results are in, and it is time to express the gratitude of the Atlas Steering Committee and Regional Coordinators to the wonderful volunteers. Over 1100 of you diligently worked in your blocks over the past 5 summers, watching and listening for the birds breeding there, and then you took the time to fill out forms and to send in your data. THANK YOU!

Without your contributions, the Atlas would not have been possible. You were very generous with your birding skills, your time, energy, and gas money! Thank you also for your contributions (on the state tax form) to "Return a Gift to Wildlife", which provides most of the funding for this project.

The map at right shows the results of your work, and it is indeed impressive. Over 5200 blocks have been surveyed, with an average of about 70 species per block visited. Scaled-down "mop-up" field work this year will focus on about 250 blocks that are unvisited or have fewer than 25 species. (If you just can't give up Atlasing and can travel to

hard-to-reach places, contact your Regional Coordinator.) In the meantime, the publication phase of the Atlas project is underway, with the goal of a book available in late 2007.

Volunteer birders in New York State are the BEST!



## Rick Vetter to talk on “The Natural History of Madagascar”

by Bill Watson

May 11<sup>th</sup> Rick Vetter and his wife Joan Suther (who now reside in the State of Oregon) will return to Buffalo to give a talk on the Natural History of Madagascar. Rick is a fish and wildlife biologist with the U. S. Forest Service and Joan is a land manager with the United States Department of the Interior. Many may remember the excellent talk Rick presented four years ago on their harrowing experiences studying colonial pelagic bird on an isolated island between Hawaii and Midway.

This years talk will be on the worlds fourth largest island, Madagascar. Most of the talk centers on birds, including the strange endemic families of vangas, mesites and ground rollers and other wildlife of Madagascar. However, the trip took in everything: the people, landscape, plants, insects, lifestyle and what is left of the natural vegetation. The people were especially very friendly and photogenic in Madagascar. The local native guides at specific reserves were the best Rick and Joan have encountered.

This trip was cosponsored by Idaho State University. A group of 12 biologists took part in a 5 week trip and attempted to see most of the 122 endemics. They saw 116, plus many other local migrants. There are at least 72 lemur species with 2 of these only recently described! Madagascar is great place to visit. Unfortunately much of the natural habitat is being converted to agricultural land needed to support and feed its growing population.

Rick has switched to a digital single lens reflex camera and took about 5000 photos, which creates an editing challenge, but he has narrowed it down to about 150 of his best photos in a one hour presentation. This talk should be interesting, informative, and enjoyable.

sas searching for tangible evidence of this species – a minimum of fifteen visual encounters have been described, of which seven contain sufficient detail to confirm Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Independent field sketches of the bird from at least two observers are consistent with Ivory-billed Woodpecker and not Pileated Woodpecker. Audio and several seconds of video recording evidence also support the existence of Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Enhanced still images of the latter appear as supplementary material in the Science paper (<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1114103>) and indeed provide most of the data used to write the paper. Below is a brief summary of these data that support identification of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker:

1. Size. Analysis of individual frames that capture the bird perched on a tupelo tree trunk allowed estimation of dimensions. In particular, the minimum distance spanning the “wrist” and the tip of the tail was outside of the range expected for Pileated Woodpecker and near the upper range expected for Ivory-billed Woodpecker. This data is summarized in supplemental figure 4 of the Science article.

2. Wing pattern at rest. Analysis of the same video footage reveals extensive white on posterior region of the opening wing bordered by an anterior black region consistent with either sex of Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

3. Wing pattern in flight. The video provided data for eleven wingbeats of flight – these frames show extensive posterior white patches on dorsal and ventral wing surfaces representing “white secondary and innermost primary flight feathers”, consistent with Ivory-Billed Woodpecker. Simulation using Ivory-billed Woodpecker models produced similar results.

4. White plumage on dorsum. Video frames also capture the dorsal surface of the bird revealing white plumage on the back between the wings, consistent with an Ivory-billed Woodpecker and inconsistent with Pileated Woodpecker.

5. Black-and-white pattern of a perched bird. Video footage revealed the bird perched on a tupelo tree trunk. Simulation with an Ivory-billed Woodpecker model produced a similar image.

6. Wingspan. The authors note that the bird in question showed an estimated wingspan of 71 centimeters, within the range expected for an Ivory-billed Woodpecker and “at or above the maximum published wingspan of Pileated Woodpecker.”

7. Wingbeat rate. The video showed a wingbeat rate of 9 s<sup>-1</sup> for at least 4 seconds. This flight pattern matches the anecdotal descriptions of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker and is atypical of Pileated Woodpecker.

The field surveys have provide no information regarding population (indeed all observations may have been of the same individual) or evidence of breeding. The “Big Woods” area of Arkansas may be an ideal last stronghold of this species, with the region being quite inaccessible to disruptive human activity and comprises the second largest contiguous area of bottomland forest in the Mississippi River basin (~220,000 hectares), with a large fraction of this area at or approaching maturity.

## Ivory-billed Woodpecker Rediscovered in “Big Woods” of Eastern Arkansas

by Jack Skalicky

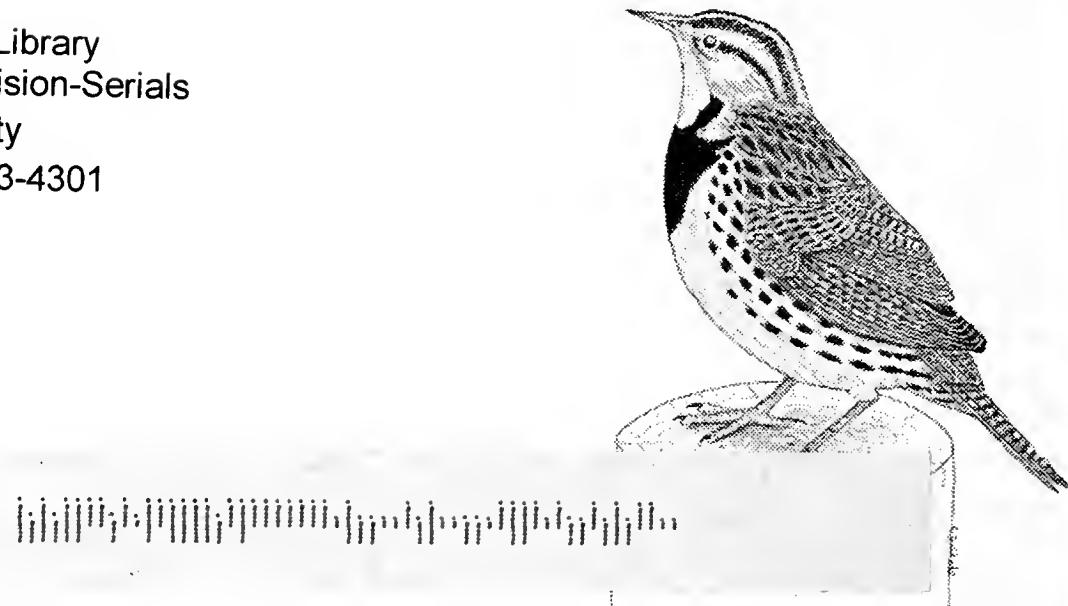
Ivory-billed Woodpecker has been rediscovered in the “Big Woods” of Arkansas. This discovery has generated a flurry of recent news releases and an accelerated publication in the journal, Science [Ivory-Billed Woodpecker (*Campetherus principalis*) Persists in Continental North America (2005) Scienceexpress, April 28, 2005]. There are many websites with much more detailed information than this article provides, e.g., <http://www.ivorybill.org/>. Remarkably, first evidence of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas dates back to February, 2004 and only at the end of April, 2005 was the news released to the general public. Between these dates a team of field researchers has scoured selected parts of the “Big Woods” region of Arkan-

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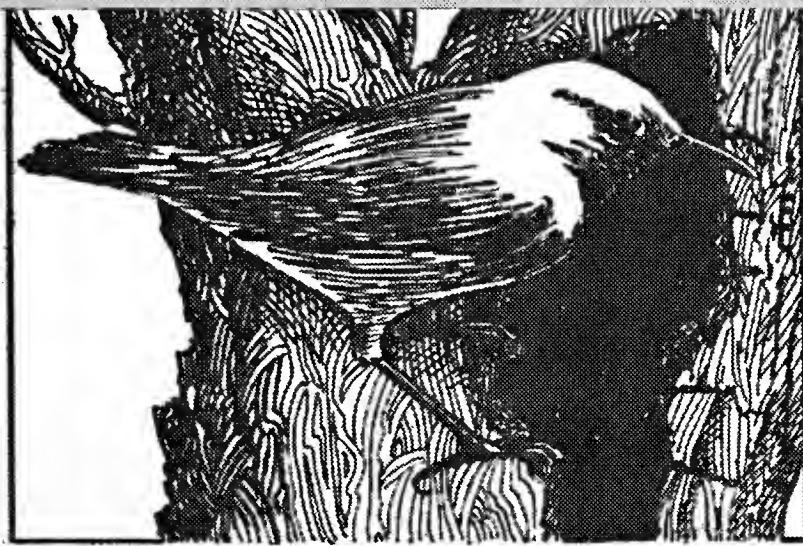


**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

### **May – June Calendar**

- March 1 - May 15:** **Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Jim Landau (941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)).
- May 11:** **BOS Meeting** at 7:30 in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Rick Vetter and Joan Suther will present a program on "The Natural History of Madagascar." The talk centers on birds and wildlife with excursions about people, landscape, lifestyle, and plants of this country.
- May 15:** **May Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or [rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rldeleon@yahoo.com)) BOS members should plan to participate.
- May 25:** **BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Glenn Johnson, Chairman of the Department of Biology at the SUNY Potsdam presents, "Conservation of the Spruce Grouse in the Adirondacks."
- June 8: Wednesday. The Annual June Picnic** will be held 6PM at Tifft Nature Preserve Visitor Center. Bring your own food and plan for a short hike.
- June 10: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West St., Port Colborne, Ontario) Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### THE MONTH: March

by Tim Baird

March is a month of transition for season and birds. This March seemed reluctant to let go of winter. According to the National Weather Service summary, Buffalo's March temperature averaged 29.4 °F, which is about 5 degrees below the normal average. Most of the month was cold and the ground was snow-covered. The nine day period in Buffalo from the 8<sup>th</sup> through the 16<sup>th</sup> remained below freezing, an unusual string of cold days for March. Nevertheless, true to the old saying, March went out like a lamb with March 31<sup>st</sup> recording a high of 68 °F.

Like the temperature, March precipitation was below the average. Most fell as snow (17.9 inches), half of that total fell during the first two days. Total precipitation at 1.38 inches gave Buffalo the driest March in the last ten years.

Sunshine remained near normal at 44% of the possible. The near normal sun, cold temperatures, and generally dry conditions, imply that many of March's air masses were of northern origin. Snow-cover remained for most of the month, particularly in the southern tier. Lake Erie was mostly ice-covered, and the smaller lakes and ponds in western New York were frozen for most or all of the month. Despite its reputation for windy conditions, March winds were described as "relatively modest by March standards" by the National Weather Service.

March is the most active month for spring waterfowl migration. Reported species of geese, swans, and ducks totaled 31 for the month, with reports for the Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, American Wigeon,

and Blue-winged Teal (D'Anna *et. al.*) as first records for the year. A Ross's Goose at Dunkirk Harbor (D'Anna and Rew) on March 5<sup>th</sup> is noteworthy. Tundra Swans had a good flight on the 17<sup>th</sup> with 148 reported at the Hamburg

Hawkwatch (Rew) and 350 reported at Beaver Island State Park (Sharon).

Numbers of other waterfowl seemed somewhat conservative with the exceptions of 350 Northern Pintails (D'Anna) at Somerset on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 700 Greater Scaup (Watson) at Buffalo Harbor on the 31<sup>st</sup>, 232 White-winged Scotters (Watson *et. al.*) at Fort Niagara on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and 300 Common Mergansers on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Strawberry Island (Watson). No March waterfowl records were submitted for the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant; perhaps this was a factor as only one Ruddy Duck is listed for the month (Watson, 31<sup>st</sup> at Buffalo Harbor).

A single Red-throated Loon was seen at Dunkirk Harbor on the 16<sup>th</sup> (Watson) and again on the 27<sup>th</sup> (Rew). Rew's description of the loon noted: "Its attitude on the water was as pictured in every field guide—head and bill thrust upward, long body rather low in the water." No sightings for Common Loon were submitted.

March 7<sup>th</sup> recorded our region's first Turkey Vultures, one in Lancaster (Morgante) and three at the Hamburg Hawkwatch (Watson *et. al.*). This species count culminated on March 31<sup>st</sup> with 93 observed at Tifft Nature Preserve (Watson). Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Rough-legged Hawk were observed at the Hamburg Hawkwatch during the month. Four Sandhill Cranes passing the Hawkwatch on the 19<sup>th</sup> (Rew) add evidence that this species is increasing in the east.

The last week in March hosted our first shorebirds—Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, and American Woodcock. Killdeer were only noted by three of 17 observers reporting for the month. Great Black-backed Gulls are not unusual around the Great Lakes, but 190 at Dunkirk Harbor on March 16<sup>th</sup> is an impressive number (Watson).

The Snowy Owl and Boreal Owl may be our region's only northern owl representatives during an irruptive year. A single Snowy Owl was reported from Yates (20<sup>th</sup>, Potter *et. al.*, 26<sup>th</sup>, D'Anna *et. al.*). The Boreal Owl was still in

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

**Society Officers:**

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of its family to be recorded in the region for March.

As we greet arriving migrants from the south, we will likely say goodbye to some of our wintering birds this month. Northern Shrike, Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting (600 of the latter at Yates on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Watson and Pawlicki) continued into March. Possibly underreported,



*Cooper's Hawk  
photographed by  
Willie D'Anna at  
Dunkirk Harbor on  
March 5, 2005.*

Wilson on the 10<sup>th</sup> (Potter).

March opens the door for our returning passerines. However, the door remained closed until the latter part of the month this year. Eastern Phoebe was first recorded on the 30<sup>th</sup> at Marilla (Holmes) and at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park (Potter). Tree Swallows arrived on the 30<sup>th</sup> with a maximum of 20 recorded in Wilson (D'Anna) on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Late March brought a single Vesper Sparrow, now increasingly rare at any season, to Blasdell (31<sup>st</sup>, Turisk), a Fox Sparrow to Buffalo (30<sup>th</sup>, Yoerg), an Eastern Meadowlark to Somerset (17<sup>th</sup>, D'Anna), and five Rusty Blackbirds to Tonawanda Wildlife Management area (26<sup>th</sup>, O'Donnells). Though not new for the year, Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles increased their presence, and a single Yellow-rumped Warbler that remained in Orchard Park for the first half of the month (Zebehazy) is the only representative

but there was only one report for American Tree Sparrow (17<sup>th</sup>, Holmes at Sinking Ponds). Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were still being reported by several observers.

The Lark Sparrow in Porter was present as late as March 12<sup>th</sup> (Watson *et. al.*, BOS). We owe Vicki Rothman, whose family hosted this bird and the birders who came to see it, our deep appreciation.

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## **Lake Plains Field Trip**

*by Bill Watson*

March 26<sup>th</sup> was a bright sunshiny day with temperatures reaching the high 40s and weak NNE winds of only 4 mph. The well attended field trip caravan left Wright's Corners and proceeded down Route 104 to Hosmer Road where many observers saw a Northern Shrike. Curiously, this is the same location where we had a Loggerhead Shrike on last years trip. Along the way we observed twelve of the more common bird species including many Canada Geese. Next we went to Barker Centennial Park and found an American Wigeon, six Northern Pintails, about 20 Long-tailed Ducks, 29 White-winged Scoters, Common Goldeneye, and many Red-breasted Mergansers. It was here that Jim Pawlicki found two very rare in spring Cackling Geese. While traveling east along Lower Lake we stopped to look at a Short-eared Owl in flight and four Eastern Bluebirds.

At Lower Lake and Burgess Roads most birders had some more of their first spring migrant ducks: eleven Northern Pintails, two male Green-winged Teals, two American Wigeons, and a colorful male Wood Duck. While studying the waterfowl we also observed a variety of hawks overhead including three dark phase and one light phase Rough-legged Hawks, two Red-shouldered Hawks, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk.

At Golden Hill State Park, Betsy Potter showed the group an adorable Northern Saw-whet Owl she had found the previous day. Along Niagara-Orleans County Line Road we added four more raptor species with a Bald Eagle, a Northern Harrier, a Snowy Owl, and a Turkey Vulture. In Yates Jim Pawlicki found seven more Cackling Geese, while others were studying three Snow Geese, a Cooper's Hawk, and a possible Canada Goose X Barnyard (or Snow Goose) hybrid found by Jerry Lazarczyk. At Shadigee in addition to most of the waterfowl observed at Barker Centennial Park, there were twelve Red-necked Grebes in striking breeding plumage and at least eight Horned Grebes in winter plumage. We then returned to the south side of Hartland-Somerset Town Line Road, where we had a second and more cooperative Northern Shrike. The bird was a fitting end to another great Lake Ontario Plains Field Trip. Thanks to Willie D'Anna.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	20F	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
Snow Goose	7	165	Bethany	Beattie
"	12 - 30	7 recs	L. Ontario plain	Several observers
"	20	60	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna et al
"	22	20	Oakfield	Sharon
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, Rew
* <u>Cackling Goose</u>	26F	7	Yates	D'Anna, Watson (BOS)
"	26F	2	Barker Bicent. Park	DiTommaso, Watson (BOS)
Tundra Swan	3	50	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	5; 9; 17	32; 5; 350	Beaver I. SP	Watson; Watson; Sharon
"	13	30	Marilla	Holmes
"	17; 21	148; 24	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew; Watson, Lazarczyk
"	18	70	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Wood Duck	18F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	19	3	Somerset	D'Anna
"	26 - 29	4 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
* American Wigeon	12F	2	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	30	37	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
* Blue-winged Teal	20F	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	27	2	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Shoveler	17F	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	20	2	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	30	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Northern Pintail	12F - 26	8 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
"	17; 19	30; 350	Somerset	D'Anna
"	18	120	Fort Erie	Yoerg
"	24	48	Hanover	Moshers
Green-winged Teal	18	2	Fort Erie	Yoerg
"	26	4	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	30	7	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Canvasback	30	166	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Redhead	3	5	Tonawanda	Watson
"	17	2	Olcott	D'Anna
Ring-necked Duck	22; 23	1; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	23	8	Tonawanda	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	30	73	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Greater Scaup	1 - 31	200	Grand I.	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	31	700	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Lesser Scaup	25	2	Beaver I. SP	Hess

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	31	8	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
King Eider	12; 18	2; 2	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Surf Scoter	12; 18	1; 1	Fort Erie	Yoerg
"	16	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
White-winged Scoter	12	232	Fort Niagara	Watson et al
"	18	11	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Black Scoter	<u>5; 16</u>	3; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna; Watson
Long-tailed Duck	18	10	Fort Erie	Yoerg
Ruddy Duck	31F	1	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
* Red-throated Loon	16; 27	1; 1	<u>Dunkirk Harbor</u>	Watson; Rew
Pied-billed Grebe	16	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	30F	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Horned Grebe	16	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	18F	3	Jaeger Rocks	Yoerg
"	22	47	Shadigee	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	26	8	Shadigee	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Red-necked Grebe	12;17;18	1; 1; 6	Fort Erie	Yoerg
"	16;17;27	4; 2; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Moshers; Rew
"	17	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg
"	26	12	Shadigee	D'Anna et al (BOS)
D.-crested Cormorant	16	73	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Great Blue Heron	3; 9; 27	17; 26; 34	Motor I.	Watson
"	22	10	Iroquois NWR (n)	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	25	3	Motor I.	Sharon
"	27	27	Motor I.	Lazarczyk et al
"	31	5	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Watson
* Turkey Vulture	7F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	7F; 28	3; 88	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson et al
"	12 - 27	6 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
"	31	75	Tonawanda	Hess
"	31	93	Tifft NP	Watson
* Osprey	31F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Andrle, Rew, Turisk
"	31F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Bald Eagle	3 - 24	5 rpts	Strawberry I.	Watson et al
"	5	1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	6	1 ad	Fredonia	Moshers
"	15; 30	1; 1	Iroquois NWR (n)	Watson
"	18	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	19	1 imm	Bird I. Pier	DiTommaso
"	19	2 ad	Lackawanna	DiTommaso
"	24	1	Somerset	Watson
"	26	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	26	1 imm	Yates	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	28	1	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson et al
"	31	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	20	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	28	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	31	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew, Turisk
* Red-shouldered Hawk	7F; 28	1; 6	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson; Watson et al
"	17	2	Somerset	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20 - 27	2 max	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	26;27;31	2; 2; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	27	1	Ward	Brooks
Rough-legged Hawk	6	4	Porter	Rosenburg et al (BOS)
"	22	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	26	6	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	1	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	3	Hamburg hawkwatch	Andrle, Rew, Turisk
Merlin	<u>4 - 28</u>	5 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
* Peregrine Falcon	<u>5F</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna
"	31	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
* <u>Sandhill Crane</u>	<u>19F</u>	4	Hamburg hawkwatch	Rew
* Greater Yellowlegs	<u>30F</u>	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Sharon
"	<u>30F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Wilson's Snipe	<u>31F</u>	1	Lancaster	Morgante
* American Woodcock	<u>25F</u>	1	Blasdell	Turisk
"	<u>25F</u>	3	Almond	Case
"	26	1	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	1	Colden	K & J Landau
"	31	5	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Iceland Gull	17	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Yoerg
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna, DiTommaso, Rew
"	17	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg
Great Black-b. Gull	16	190	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Snowy Owl	20	1	Yates	Potter et al
"	26	1	Yates	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Long-eared Owl	17	1	Amherst SP	Lazarczyk
"	18	1	Newfane	Potter, D'Anna
"	31	2	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Short-eared Owl	6; 12; 31	20; 26; 2	Porter	D'Anna, S&T O'Donnell et al
"	26	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)
<u>Boreal Owl</u>	10	1	Wilson	Potter
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	12	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Watson, Potter, Pawlicki
"	25	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter
"	26	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	31	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
* Eastern Phoebe	<u>30F</u>	1	Marilla	Holmes
"	<u>30F</u>	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	31	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Shrike	5	1	Pomfret	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	12; 26	1; 1	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	26	2	Hartland	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	26	1	Portland	Mosher
Common Raven	26	2	Alfred	Brooks
Horned Lark	6	20	Porter	Rosenburg et al (BOS)
"	12	60	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	14	Somerset	Watson, Lazarczyk
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	2	26	Stockton	Mosher
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	11	26	Stockton	Mosher
* Tree Swallow	<u>30F</u>	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30F	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	31	8	Tifft NP	Watson
"	31	20	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Carolina Wren	7	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8; 27	1; 1	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
Eastern Bluebird	23	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	24	5	Grand I.	Lazarczyk, Watson, Burke
"	26	4	Somerset	D'Anna et al (BOS)
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Mockingbird	10 - 31	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
American Pipit	31	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Yellow-r. Warbler	1 - 15	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Chipping Sparrow	1 - 31	3 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Field Sparrow	31	2	Tifft NP	Watson
* Vesper Sparrow	31F	1	Blasdell	Turisk
<u>Lark Sparrow</u>	6	1	Porter	Watson et al (BOS)
"	12	1	Porter	Watson, et al (BOS)
* Fox Sparrow	30F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	31	3	Tifft NP	Watson
White-cr. Sparrow	1; 4	2; 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	1 - 31	2 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	2	Porter	Rosenburg et al (BOS)
Lapland Longspur	18	1	Yates	Sharon
"	26	3	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
Snow Bunting	6	15	Porter	Rosenburg et al (BOS)
"	12	600	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki
Red-w. Blackbird	7F	13	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Eastern Meadowlark	17F	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	18	1	Somerset	Morgante
* Rusty Blackbird	26F	5	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Common Grackle	7F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	15	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Brown-head. Cowbird	7	10	Tonawanda	Hess
Purple Finch	15; 28	1; 3	Colden (f)	K Landau
"	22	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	24	2	Andover	Brooks
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Common Redpoll	12	35	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	28	4	Wilson (f)	Potter
Pine Siskin	6 - 31	6 max	Wilson	D'Anna
"	8	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	12	8	Porter	Watson
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**116**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**019**

**Total for the year 2005:**

**135**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

# Region 1 Breeding Bird Survey Routes – Volunteers Needed.

by Gerry Rising

In a recent issue of New York Birders, Charles Smith wrote about New York State's participation in the North American Breeding Bird Surveys. Sadly, we in Region 1 come up short in his analysis of coverage. As of his report in April of this year, we now have four of our thirteen BBS routes not being censused. For a society that has long prided itself on its ornithological studies, I consider this situation both embarrassing and unacceptable.

Those who have done these surveys know that they represent a challenge for you must be at the starting point a half hour before local dawn. But they are also interesting and a great deal of fun. On a day in June convenient to you, you follow a prescribed 25 mile route, stopping every half mile to look and listen for three minutes, recording numbers of all the species identified at your 51 stops. You then tabulate and report your results on appropriate forms to the Inventory and Monitoring Section of the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Biological Survey. Routes are best covered by two people: one to serve as driver and recorder, the other to do the actual count.

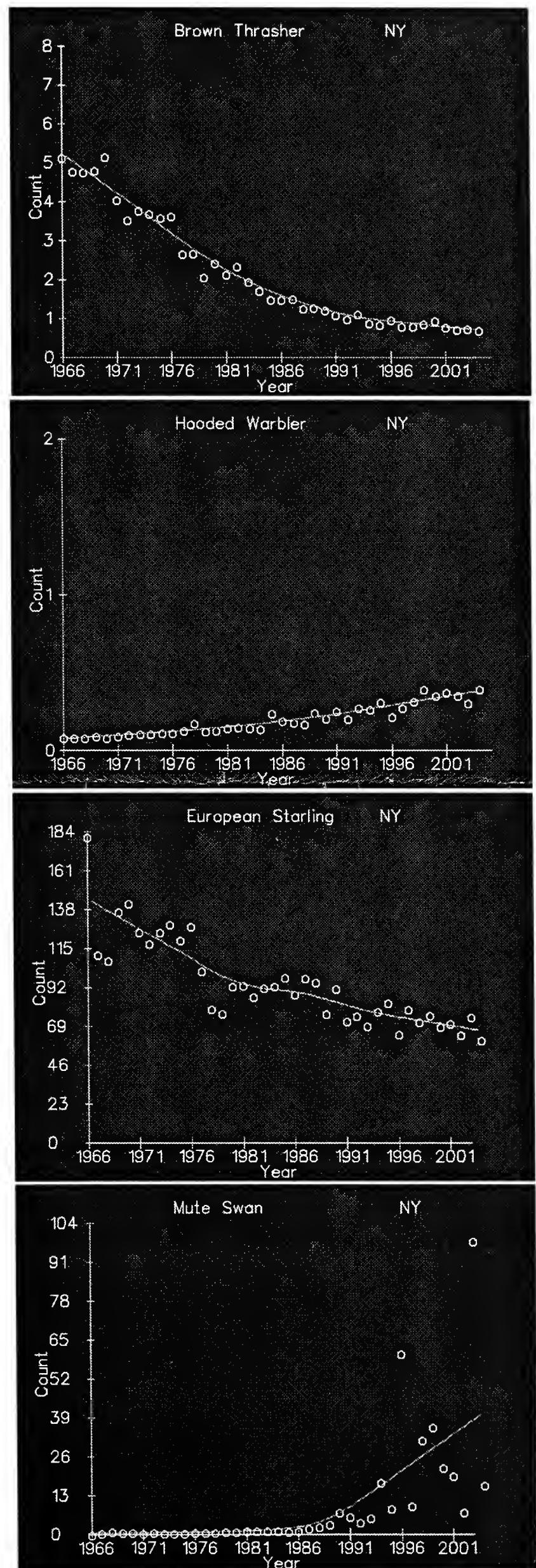
These routes have been censused since 1965 and provide important comparative data about our breeding species of birds. Today over 3000 routes are being surveyed across North America. Much of this data now resides on the web and may be accessed at <[www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/](http://www.mbr-pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/)>. You can learn more there about the precipitous population declines in our region of species like Blue-winged Teal, Brown Thrasher, European Starling (!), Vesper Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark and House Sparrow as well as corresponding increases for Double-crested Cormorant, Canada Goose, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Eastern Bluebird, Hooded Warbler, Northern Cardinal and House Finch.

Continuing to provide this kind of information is, I believe, very important. As our society's average age is increasing, many older birders no longer have the eyesight and hearing necessary to do the actual identification. We need younger members to step forward, but older members can still serve as drivers and recorders.

The routes not currently being censused are 53 Hamburg (!), 61 Sheridan (in Chautauqua County south of Dunkirk), 62 Cherry Hill (near the Pennsylvania border of Chautauqua County) and 63 Nashville (in Cattaraugus County southeast of Silver Creek).

To take responsibility for a BBS Route and to obtain route data contact Charles Smith, NY Coordinator at Department of Natural Resources, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-3001 (phone: 607-255-3219, email: [crs6@cornell.edu](mailto:crs6@cornell.edu)). Let's meet this challenge.

Figures on right show New York State trends for the indicated species. Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, and J. Fallon. 2005. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2004. Version 2005.2. USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

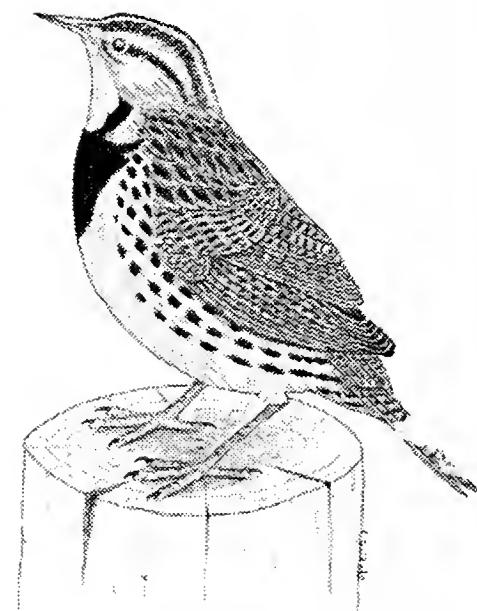


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**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
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## June – August Calendar

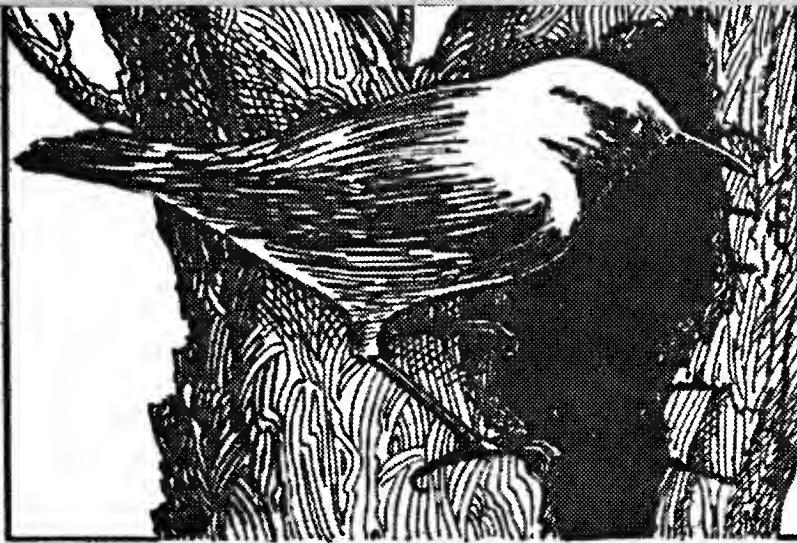
**June 18: Saturday. CARLTON HILL MULTIPLE USE AREA.** Joint trip with Genesee Ornithological Society. Prepare to hike. Bring water resistant hiking boots, water, and lunch. Meet at the Alexander Post Office parking lot on Rte 98 about 10 miles south of Batavia and just south of Rte 20 at 7:30 a.m. Leaders: Kurt Fox 585-343-0896 and Jon Dombrowski.

**July 31: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge to carpool. We will be going to Rock Point PP + others, Rock Point charges \$10.00 Canadian for entry, so bring Canadian money. We will consolidate the group into as few cars as possible at park entrance.

**August 21: BOS August Shorebird Count.** 6AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. Contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: [TerryYonker@cs.com](mailto:TerryYonker@cs.com)

**August 28: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti to carpool. See July 31 note above.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

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### THE MONTH: April

by Bill Watson

**Weather:** April's average temperature was 46.8 °F (1.5 °F above normal) and we received 4.50 inches of melted precipitation (1.46 inches above average). The beginning and end of the month were unseasonably cold, wet, and windy while the middle of the month was pleasantly warm, sunny, and conducive to avian migration.

On April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> nearly all of the month's 9.3 inches of snow fell in a 36 hour period, making this April the snowiest in 15 years. In contrast, April 5-20<sup>th</sup> was seven degrees warmer than normal. Although the beginning and end of April were cloudy, a stretch of twelve consecutive sunny days and 15 of 16 sunny days between the 4-19<sup>th</sup> made this April the sunniest in 35 years with 60% of the possible sunshine. The final ten days had temperatures four degrees below normal, cloudy skies, and a storm on the 22-23<sup>rd</sup>. Of the 15 early arrivals requiring written verification reports, only two were from dates outside of the extremely warm and sunny period from April 5-20<sup>th</sup>.

During the last ten days of the month, cold wet weather appeared to slow the migration, and most of the expected neotropical migrants were absent or late. Only seven warbler species were reported. This was similar to April 1997 when even fewer species of warblers were reported and the average temperature was 2.6 °F below normal. To find an April with fewer warbler species than 2005 and above average temperatures, one has to go back to 1980 (six species) when the average temperature was 46.1 °F. I did not find an

April as warm as 2005 with seven or fewer warbler species.

**Rare Birds:** Once again April had more than its share of rarities. This month Whooping Crane, Townsend's Solitaire, and Swainson's Hawk were the exceptional records. The Whooping Cranes were

reported by Gil Randell and he wrote, "At approximately 12:10 EST, the three WHOOPING CRANES appeared about ¼ to ½ mile to the west of us, approaching us at site #2 as close as about 100 feet to the south and about 50 feet above ground level. They continued in an easterly direction until they disappeared about ¼ mile away over a barn roof and then below a line of trees. Five observers watched the birds from Site #2: Jann and Gil Randell, Mel Freeborough, Bill Dietz, and Tom Wasilewski. Because we coordinate sightings between different sites at the hawk watch with two way radios, we were able to contact two other observers about three miles to the southeast of us at Site #4, Len DeFrancisco and Bob Sundell, who then were able to observe the birds for a brief time, and at a great distance, after we had lost sight of them (Randell 2005)."

According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the three Whooping Cranes observed above are coded 1-03, 9-03, and 18-03 and were hatch year birds in 2003. 1-03 was equipped with a radio transmitter providing research-



Townsend's Solitaire photographed by Willie D'Anna at his yard in the Town of Wilson on April 14, 2005.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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ers with knowledge of its location using telemetry (and associating cranes 9-03 and 18-03; see map below). Their migratory routes during fall, 2004 and spring, 2005 is shown. This spring the three cranes were reported from Lake County, Ohio on April 3<sup>rd</sup> (south and west of Ripley), then at Ripley, NY on April 6<sup>th</sup> (corroborating the Ripley Hawk Watch sightings), and then from Grey County, Ontario on April 15<sup>th</sup> (Stilwell 2005). Since then, 1-03 and 18-03 were observed in Mason County, Michigan on June 12<sup>th</sup> while 9-03 has separated from the group and on June 9<sup>th</sup> was found in Addison County, Vermont (Sullivan 2005). Although these birds are members of an "experimental non-essential population", their sighting at Ripley Hawk Watch is the first documented record of any kind in the BOS study area and New York State (if approved by NYSARC) for this species.

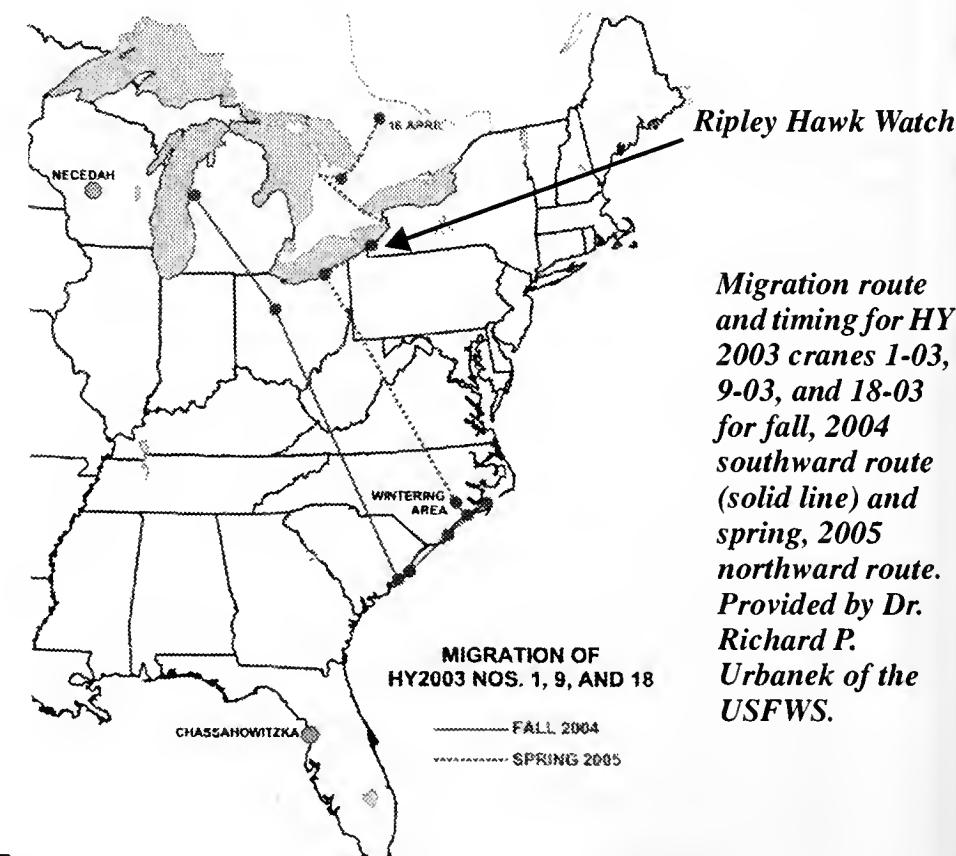
Rare birds have become common on and near Willie D'Anna's property at 4777 Lake Road in the Town of Wilson. TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE visited here April 12-14<sup>th</sup>. There are only two other records of this species in the BOS archives: one at Fonthill, Ontario on Nov. 6, 1983 and one at Bond Lake from Dec. 23, 2001 to Feb. 23, 2002. Only five NYSARC approved records of this species exist.

Also in the Town of Wilson on the 19<sup>th</sup> Dean Di Tommaso car-chased a SWAINSON'S HAWK from Route 18 to Coomer Road and finally to Hess Road. He described it as a very dark buteo with dihedral, long, tapering wings (with no obvious bulges) that were held forward of the body (similar to Red-shouldered Hawk). In eliminating similar species he noted that melanistic Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Rough-legged, and Ferruginous Hawks have paler flight feathers that contrast with the darker underwing lining. When eliminating similar species, how often do we forget to eliminate melanistic, leucistic, and albinistic forms of other species? There are four other BOS records of Swainson's Hawk: one in Brockport on October 1, 1889

(note: Brockport was within BOS study area until 1956); one at Rock Point Provincial Park on Sept. 19, 1984; one at Westfield on May 2, 1993; and one at Ripley on Apr. 18, 2002.

The Eastern Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*) studied on April 13 and 14 at Amherst State Park is only our fourth record of this subspecies since 1964. The Common Raven on the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hamburg Hawk Watch is the twelfth Erie County record, while the Common Ravens on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Beaver Meadows and on the 10<sup>th</sup> in Bennington are the ninth and tenth records for Wyoming County. Other rare birds requiring written verification reports were the Northern Goshawk in Wilson, Golden Eagle at the Hamburg Hawk Watch, and Sandhill Cranes in Somerset (1) and Haldimand County, Canada (2).

**Early arrivals:** Usually the April count will produce only three or four unusually early records. The very favorable migratory weather of April 5-20<sup>th</sup> this years resulted in nine early records on the April 10<sup>th</sup> Count: Broad-winged Hawk (2), Merlin, Common Moorhen, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Louisiana Waterthrush, Merlin, and Pine Warbler (2). The Common Moorhen is the fifth earliest record. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is bettered by records on the April 8, 1945 and April 5, 1998 Counts. The Blue-headed Vireo found along ASP 2 in Allegany State Park is the earliest ever record in the BOS territory. Thomas LeBlanc feels this bird and other local breeders like Pine Warblers and Ospreys are often found in the Southern Tier long before they reach the rest of the BOS territory. The Louisiana Waterthrush also found by Tom Leblanc on the same day near ASP 2 is our second earliest record of this species. Our earliest Louisiana Waterthrush was found by Steve Eaton in Carrollton on April 7, 1991. The two records of Broad-winged Hawk, the two records of Pine Warbler, and the Merlin were also excellent early records on this year's April Count. Although the Broad-winged Hawk seen April 9 is the earliest non-count record, there are earlier records on April Counts of: April 6, 1941; April 8, 1945; April 7, 1946 and April 8, 1979.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	5	1	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	24	2 blue	Yates	Potter, D'Anna
Mute Swan	13	2	Wilson	Watson et al
Gadwall	9	1	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
"	16	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Wigeon	16	23	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	16	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	16	134	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	16	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Pintail	16	4	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Green-winged Teal	9	1	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
"	16	10	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Redhead	9	4	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
Ring-necked Duck	5	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	9	4	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
"	15	23	Tifft NP	Watson
"	16	32	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Greater Scaup	9	40	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
Lesser Scaup	9	20	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
"	16	45	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	20	5	Alfred	Brooks
Surf Scoter	20	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
White-winged Scoter	13	14	Wilson	Watson
Black Scoter	9	1	Small Boat Harbor	Morgante
"	3	2	Newfane	S&T O'Donnell
Long-tailed Duck	13	23	Wilson	Watson
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Hooded Merganser	16	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	20; 21	2; 1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-br. Merganser	24	1000	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	15	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	16	278	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	16	10	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
Red-throated Loon	24	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Common Loon	7	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	9 - 28	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	13 - 29	4 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Horned Grebe	20	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-necked Grebe	1	61	Somerset	D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	5	135	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	13	2	Wilson	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	9	120	Buffalo	Morgante
"	15; 20	170; 352	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	26	2	Bethany	Beattie
American Bittern	16 F	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Great Blue Heron	15	14 (6 n)	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	15	23	Motor I.	Watson
* Great Egret	1 F	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	7; 27	4; 11	Motor I.	Hess
"	13	10	Navy I.	Lazarczyk et al
"	13	8	Motor I.	S&T O'Donnell
"	13 - 29	41 max	Motor I.	Watson
"	17 - 29	3 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
"	28	22 (21 n)	Motor I.	Watson
* Green Heron	19 F	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	23	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	27	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	28	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Black-cr. Night-Heron	15; 20	4; 13	Motor I.	Watson
"	20	1	Times Beach NP	Turisk
"	27	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk et al
Turkey Vulture	5	62	Highland-on-the-Lake	Andrle
Osprey	4 - 28	2 max	Allegany SP	Baird
"	5	1	Highland-on-the-Lake	Andrle
"	9 - 27	11 recs	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Bald Eagle	4	2	Allegheny Res.	Baird
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess
"	13	2 (n)	Navy I.	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	13	1	Hamburg	M&W Zebehazy
"	16	1 (n)	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	18	1 imm	Tonawanda	Galas
"	29	1 (n)	Navy I.	Watson et al
Northern Goshawk	9	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	19	1 imm	<u>Wilson</u>	DiTommaso
* Broad-winged Hawk	14 F	4	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Rew et al
"	17 - 21	5 recs	Throughout WNY	Several observers
"	19	85	Pomfret	Moshers
* Swainson's Hawk	19	1	Wilson	DiTommaso
Rough-legged Hawk	5	1	Highland-on-the-Lake	Andrle
"	5; 9	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	1	Stockton	Mosher et al
"	10	1	Chautauqua	Mosher et al
"	18	3	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Watson
* Golden Eagle	9	1 imm	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Morgante
Merlin	18 F	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Watson
* Virginia Rail	15 F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
* Sora	14 F	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Coot	16	47	Iroquois NWR	Watson
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	6	4	Somerset	D'Anna
* <u>Whooping Crane</u> – from Wisconsin Breeding Program	6	3	Ripley Hawk Watch	Randell, DeFrancisco, Freeborough et al
Greater Yellowlegs	1	5	Hartland	D'Anna
"	16	8	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	19 - 29	3 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
* Lesser Yellowlegs	17 F	5	Hartland	D'Anna
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Horbett
* Solitary Sandpiper	28 F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
* Spotted Sandpiper	18 F	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso
* Pectoral Sandpiper	17 F	24	Hartland	D'Anna
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Horbett
Wilson's Snipe	1	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	6	2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	13 - 28	3 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Bonaparte's Gull	12	200	Woodlawn Beach SP	Turisk
"	13	1700	Robert Moses plant	Turisk
"	24	300	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
* Caspian Tern	13 F	8	Wilson	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	24	3	Dunkirk	Lazarczyk et al
* Common Tern	9 F	20	Buffalo	Morgante
"	15	2	Motor I.	Watson
"	20	20	Times Beach NP	Turisk
* Black Tern	29 F	8	Iroquois NWR	Rew, Horbett
Long-eared Owl	13	1 (n)	Amherst SP	Watson et al
"	23	1	Amherst SP	Lazarczyk et al
Short-eared Owl	3; 17	3; 4	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
"	5	3	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	8	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Chimney Swift	21 F	3	Lakeside MP, Hamburg	Andrle
* Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1 F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	16	2	Ripley	Galas et al
Eastern Phoebe	1	1	Colden	K&J Landau
"	1	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	3	1	Alabama	S O'Donnell
* White-eyed Vireo	<u>22 F</u>	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Blue-headed Vireo	17	1	Beaver Meadow Aud. C.	Turisk
"	17	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	18 - 29	3 recs	Southern Tier	Mosher; Brooks
Common Raven	4	1	Ward	Brooks
"	10	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	12	1	<u>Hamburg Hawk Watch</u>	Zebehazy
"	17	1	<u>Beaver Meadow Aud. C.</u>	Turisk
"	20	1	Allegany SP	Baird
* Purple Martin	29 F	2	Grand I.	Watson et al
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	<u>5 F</u>	1	Allegany SP	LeBlanc
"	9	4	Buffalo	Morgante
"	10 - 28	6 recs	Throughout WNY	Several observers

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Bank Swallow	24 F	2	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
* Cliff Swallow	24 F	1	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
"	28	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Watson et al
* Barn Swallow	<u>1 F</u>	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	DiTommaso et al
"	9	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	12	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Carolina Wren	3	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	7	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	18	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	19	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
* House Wren	<u>16 F</u>	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso et al
"	24	1	Hamburg	Morgante
"	27	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Winter Wren	7	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	8	1	Deveaux Woods SP	S O'Donnell
"	9	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	13;18;23	1; 1; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	14	1	Amherst SP	Watson
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	19 F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	23	3	East Aurora	Holmes
"	27	3	Tifft NP	Watson
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	22 F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	27	3	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29	3 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Eastern Bluebird	1; 7; 8	4; 3; 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	6	1	Alfred	Brooks
* Townsend's Solitaire	12;13;14	1; 1; 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	13	1	Wilson	Lazarczyk, Watson et al
Hermit Thrush	6 F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	13; 30	1; 2	Ward	Brooks
"	16 - 29	4 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Northern Mockingbird	5	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	9	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Brown Thrasher	19	1	Andover	Brooks
"	19	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	20;21;23	1; 1; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	23 - 29	5 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
American Pipit	3	11	Oakfield	S&T O'Donnell
* Nashville Warbler	27 F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	30	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Yellow Warbler	28 F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	29	1	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	29	1	Grand I.	Watson et al
"	29	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Watson et al
* Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	30 F	1	Blasdell	Turisk
* Pine Warbler	<u>7 F - 10</u>	1	Orchard Park	Vigyikan
"	<u>9; 10</u>	1; 1	Allegany SP	LeBlanc
"	<u>12; 30</u>	1; 1	Blasdell	Turisk
"	16 - 29	8 rpts	Throughout WNY	Many observers

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Palm Warbler	22 F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	24	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	29	12	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Watson et al
* <i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	13; 14	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Black-and-white Warb.	30 F	1	Tiff NP	Sharon
* La. Waterthrush	17	2	Allegany SP	Baird
"	19 - 29	3 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
* Eastern Towhee	3 F	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	16	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Turisk
"	17 - 30	6 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Field Sparrow	4	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	9	1	Andover	Brooks
"	9	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Vesper Sparrow	18	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Watson et al
* Savannah Sparrow	3 F	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	3	3	Somerset	S&T O'Donnell
"	6	2	Somerset	D'Anna
Fox Sparrow	2 - 27	10 rpts	Throughout WNY	Many observers
"	3	8	Pomfret	Moshers
"	4	8	Allegany SP	Baird
Swamp Sparrow	7	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	15	2	Tiff NP	Watson
"	16	4	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
White-thr. Sparrow	1 - 30	3 max	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	2 - 28	6 rpts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
White-cr. Sparrow	3	1	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
Rusty Blackbird	6	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	2	Tiff NP	Watson
"	29	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk et al
Purple Finch	2	5	Colden	K&J Landau
"	4 - 30	3	Blasdell (f)	Turisk
"	19	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	19; 30	3; 2	Bethany	Beattie
Pine Siskin	1 - 29	3 max	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	13	4	Wilson	Watson et al
"	19	2	Orchard Park	Morgante

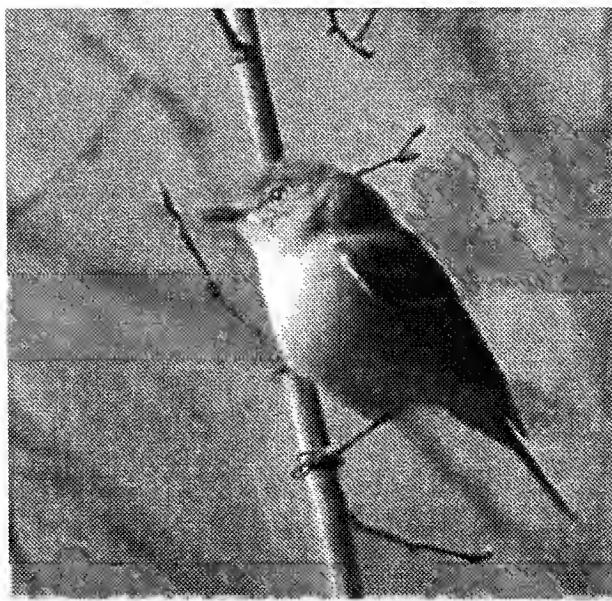
**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 137

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** 045

**Total for the year 2005:** 182

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

*White-eyed Vireo  
photographed by Tim  
Baird at France  
Brook Road in  
Allegany State Park  
on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.*



The most unusual early arrival was the White-eyed Vireo found by Tim Baird on France Brook Road on April 22. In his 20 minute study of the bird Tim got all the field marks including the "white eye." This earliest ever White-eyed Vireo is ten days early. The next closest early record was April 25, 1998 at the Tonawanda WMA. The earliest ever Northern Rough-winged Swallow was observed flying over Red House Lake at Allegany State Park on the 5<sup>th</sup> by Tom LeBlanc. The previous early record observed in Yates on April 6, 1991. Warm weather at the end of March brought in our third earliest record of Barn Swallow that is only bettered by records on March 27, 1991, and March 29, 2003. The House Wren on the 16<sup>th</sup> is only bettered by records on April 13, 2003; April 14, 1992; and April 15, 2001. Although it is sometimes difficult to distinguish migrant from wintering Pine Warblers, all birds after March 25<sup>th</sup> are likely migrants, because they are all not found at wintering locations. The Pine Warbler that showed up at Paul and Nancy Vigyikan's suet feeder in Orchard Park on March 7<sup>th</sup> was six days early; yet, there are five earlier record that are probably migrants. The Sandhill Crane on the 6<sup>th</sup> is our fourth earliest record. The Golden Eagle on the 9<sup>th</sup> is eclipsed by eleven earlier records.

**Breeding birds:** This April, Alec Humann found our first ever nesting Merlins in Buffalo, and after a 59 year absence Bald Eagles returned to the Niagara River to nest at the north end of Navy Island.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources of information in writing The Month.

Beardslee, C. S. and Mitchell H. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

National Weather Service, Buffalo, New York.

Randell, R. G. May 14, 2005. Letter to Bruce Chilton.

Stilwell, David. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Field Supervisor. May 5, 2005, Letter to Leonard De Franciso, Coordinator Ripley Hawk Watch.

Suggs, David and Pawlicki J. Custodian of BOS Noteworthy Data Base 1964-2002. (compiled by DiTomasso et. al.)

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

Sullivan T. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. June 16, 2005, email.

## Hamburg Hawk Watch Spring 2005 Report

by Jim Landau

The National Weather Service in Buffalo accurately states that March in Western New York began in the grip of deep winter, with the heaviest general snowfall of the winter leaving 6 to 10 inches over the area. (In fact, the final days of February saw the beginnings of that snow, which prevented our hardiest watchers from getting a jumpstart on our "official" dedicated season coverage of March 1 through May 15.) March was also consistently very cold and dry, with an unusually long period of continuous below freezing temperatures from the 8 – 16<sup>th</sup>. This pattern finally reversed during the final week of the month with some real spring-like conditions, ending with a balmy 68 on the month's final day, but leaving us with nine "no count" days due to weather. All of March's expected raptors showed up with clockwork-like predictability. March 30 and 31 logged our biggest flights of the month, with just under 1000 raptors for each day.

April included two major storms but also the longest stretch of sunny spring weather in many years. Snowfall from the huge first storm on the 2-3<sup>rd</sup> and a similar one on the 22-24<sup>th</sup> provided the area with the highest April snowfall total in 15 years, and over half of the month's precipitation. Sunshine was also a major weather factor during the month with 60% of the possible sunshine being recorded, enough to make it the sunniest April in Buffalo in 35 years. There was a remarkable stretch of 15 out of 16 sunny days from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> and indeed, that period produced the bulk of our April flights, perhaps owing to the attendant thermal activity. All three of this season's Golden Eagles were also reported within that window, as was the season's biggest flight day (on the 8<sup>th</sup>), which saw a total of 1713 raptors. Another strong flight of 1671 raptors was recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup>, perhaps in advance of the approaching weather change.

May was the driest month in modern history for Buffalo. It began somewhat cool and unsettled but turned summery during the second week, with the official airport temperature reaching into the 80s on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Rainfall was scarce during the month with a total of just 0.6 inch. Sunshine was plentiful with 66% of the possible being recorded and winds were relatively light during the month. Unfortunately those winds were prevailing northwesterly, which is not the quarter that favors a strong hawk flight at the hawk watch. While we know that there is an immature Broad-winged Hawk flight late in the season, those wind conditions did not help to steer them our way this year.

Taken as a whole the Spring 2005 season at Hamburg could be described as respectable, albeit one with few "thrills." 42 Bald Eagles, a season high for the watch, continues a steady upward trend for the species. All the other expected raptor species tallied more or less in keeping with previous recent years (see table below). Overall 13,141

	hours	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL	days	Birds/Hr.	accip's.	buteos	falcons	eagles
<b>Feb</b>	0.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0
<b>Mar</b>	149.08	0	2682	1	11	32	88	61	2	274	0	853	16	0	25	1	1	51	4098			151	1143	27	11
<b>Apr</b>	310.5	0	4610	78	21	40	368	45	0	23	2222	412	24	3	65	2	3	24	7940			413	2681	70	24
<b>May</b>	85.75	0	546	30	10	4	69	18	0	2	281	103	2	0	5	0	2	31	1103			87	388	7	10
<b>2005</b>	<b>396.25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7838</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>2503</b>	<b>1368</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>13141</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>4212</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Feb</b>	7.5	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	30	2	0	0	0	0	1	40			0	32	0	0
<b>Mar</b>	137.92	1	3902	4	12	39	69	41	0	230	0	576	40	0	38	0	1	27	4980			110	846	39	12
<b>Apr</b>	178.78	1	3331	74	11	42	259	38	1	33	1475	423	51	1	32	4	2	83	5861			298	1982	38	12
<b>May</b>	73	0	484	13	16	22	67	6	0	7	282	138	2	1	4	0	0	15	1057			73	429	4	17
<b>2004</b>	<b>415.7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7723</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>1757</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>11938</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>3289</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Feb</b>	12.16	0	17	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	90			3	70	0	0
<b>Mar</b>	157.80	0	4789	3	12	21	141	53	1	198	0	1091	12	1	23	2	2	28	6377			195	1301	27	13
<b>Apr</b>	162.80	0	3602	124	12	66	629	80	0	17	4671	572	16	3	68	6	3	32	9901			709	5276	77	15
<b>May</b>	74.25	0	481	24	5	14	119	27	0	1	327	116	1	0	3	0	2	13	1133			146	445	5	5
<b>2003</b>	<b>394.80</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8872</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>4998</b>	<b>1779</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>17411</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>44.1</b>	<b>1050</b>	<b>7022</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Feb</b>	12.20	0	17	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	90			3	70	0	0
<b>Mar</b>	118.80	0	5798	2	7	13	89	38	2	192	0	581	9	1	25	0	0	20	6777			129	782	25	8
<b>Apr</b>	164.20	0	2448	65	8	43	442	76	0	24	925	479	11	0	38	5	2	76	4642			518	1439	45	8
<b>May</b>	46.30	0	242	36	8	9	80	12	0	2	207	93	1	0	12	2	0	24	728			92	303	14	8
<b>2002</b>	<b>341.50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8505</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>1132</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>12237</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>2594</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>24</b>

### Summary of the Hamburg Hawkwatch for 2002-2005.

Individuals raptors were logged, our second highest season total.

Any hawk watch that relies on volunteer coverage has a long list of people to thank and Hamburg is no exception. This coordinator wishes to acknowledge the following "Hawk Watch Heroes" for their considerable contributions of time and effort, week in and week out; Bruce Chilton, Mike Galas, Mike Hamilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson, and Mike Zebehazy. Thanks also to Bob Andrlé, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, Don Harris, Doug Happ, Sharon Sisti, Roberta Vallone, Nancy and Paul Vigyikan for filling in the gaps in coverage throughout the spring. Thanks as well to the many birders and friends who stopped by to provide support. All weather data was obtained from the National Weather Service website. Any one with questions, comments, or clarifications regarding this year's watch or with interest in next spring's watch, please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone at (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: kjlandau@localnet.com

weather shut us down only nine days after March 15th: two days in March, two in April and two in May.

The importance of the migratory corridor where the Ripley Hawk Watch is located is documented by the raptor records of the Ripley Hawk Watch and the recent radar documentation of significant numbers, millions annually, of night-migrating passerines. This year, exciting corroboration of the corridor's importance occurred in our sighting on April 6th of three migrating juvenile Whooping Cranes, the first-ever sighting of Whooping Cranes in New York State. We coordinated our sighting of the cranes with US Fish and Wildlife Service; USFWS reported to us that about 14 hours after our sighting of the cranes, a satellite transmitter fitted to one of the birds reported a roosting location for them near the Ripley Hawk Watch. New York State Audubon in its Important Bird Areas of New York (2nd edition: Albany, 2005) also observes that the Ripley Hawk Watch "has reported the highest number of Sandhill Cranes on any migration flyway in the northeast (33 in 2003, 59 in 2004)." Our site recorded 35 Sandhill Cranes this year seen on six different days.

Resident Bald Eagles continue to be seen at the site. Sorting out resident from migrating eagles is a rich and welcome challenge. Volunteers documented 19 sightings of resident eagles on 11 different days. Our resident/migrant challenge was made even more interesting this year by a pair of resident Northern Goshawks. Resident Goshawks visited our hillside site just about every day from late April on, allowing our regular volunteers good looks, often at display flights.

The first migrating Bald Eagle was observed on March 15th. Migrating Bald Eagles totaled 61; migrating Golden Eagles, 4; a total of 65 migrating eagles. Sightings of resident and migrant eagles together totaled 84, very close to last-year's total of 85 eagle sightings.

## Spring 2005 Report Ripley Hawk Watch

by Len DeFrancisco and Gil Randell

Spring always seems to come late at the Ripley Hawk Watch. Cold northerly winds off Lake Erie frequently keep the watch locked in winter until May. This year the rest of the world seemed to emulate the Ripley chill, and the migration and Spring seemed later than usual. Although heavy snow on April 2nd and 3rd closed the watch, bad

2005 saw another record number of Turkey Vultures (10,598), exceeding last year's record (10,157) by 441 birds. Osprey numbers (128), although up somewhat from last year were still down compared to 2003 (191); Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers (1,285) up a bit from last year's lows (1,057) but still down significantly compared to 2003 (1,735); American Kestrels, down sharply again (from 289 to 192). The Kestrel decline over the last two years is a 47% drop in abundance (359 in 2003 to 192 in 2005). Broad-winged Hawk numbers (8,077) were up from last year (7,019); Rough-legged Hawk numbers (37), although down a bit from last year's (41) were still nearly three times the number for 2003 (13). Our overall total for raptors (22,508), exceeded last year's total (20,689) by 1,819 birds.

The big Broad-winged Hawk days were April 19th and 27th. On April 19, visitors from Erie, Pennsylvania, and western New York were treated to the sight of 2,140 Broad-winged Hawks, many in a two-and-one-half mile long stream. On April 27, we recorded 2,102 broad-wings in both kettles and streams, with many birds coming through at low altitude, close to the observers. On April 6, one of the two Merlin we recorded that day perched for 10 to 15 minutes in the top of a dead spruce just 100 meters west of our site.

We observed a Black Vulture April 4th and a Raven April 28th. Large numbers of Tundra Swans (896 on seven separate days) were observed this year. Four American Bitterns migrating in a group were also noteworthy birds. In addition to the three Whooping Cranes, other non-raptor migrants observed at the watch included Double-crested Cormorants, Common Loons, Canada Geese, several species of ducks, a number of gull species, Great Blue Herons, Green Herons, a Great Egret, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, Lesser Yellow-legs, Snipe, Woodcock, Turkeys, Ruffed Grouse, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfishers, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-shafted Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Horned Larks, Tree Swallows, Rough-winged Swallows, Barn Swallows, Crows and Blue Jays in large flocks, Chickadees, Tufted Titmouses, Carolina Wrens, House Wrens, Northern Shrike, Gray Catbirds, Wood Thrushes, Eastern Bluebirds, Black-throated Green and Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Red-winged Blackbirds, Rusty Blackbirds, Common Grackles, Starlings, Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, Baltimore Orioles, Cardinals, Goldfinches, Purple Finches, Cardinals, a male Evening Grosbeak, Eastern Towhees, Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows and Field Sparrows.

The core group of Ripley Hawk Watch volunteers included coordinator Len DeFrancisco, Mel Freeborough (whose early morning work was most appreciated), Gil and Jann Randell, Tom Wasilewski, Eileen and Bill Jowett, Bill Dietz and Bob Sundell. It was good to have Mel Freeborough back after a year's absence. Mike Ceci, Terry Mahoney, Don Eno and Dave Feliciano fit us into their busy schedules when they could.

We're grateful to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute for allowing us the use of their portable radios for supplemental weather information and communication. The radios made coordination between our five main sites possible when the flight broadened out and we had qualified observers to work more than one site.

We appreciated the assistance of a group of excellent Amish birders and hawk watchers from Holmes County, Ohio, who gave us early notice of the Broad-winged Hawk flight. They were our only source of information for the migration to the immediate west of us.

**TABLE 1. Summary of Ripley Hawk Watch for Spring - 2005**

Species	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL
Black Vulture	0	0	1	0	1
Turkey Vulture	0	4,427	5,426	745	10,598
Osprey	0	6	70	52	128
Bald Eagle	0	12	33	16	61
Northern Harrier	0	85	128	10	223
Sharp-sh. Hawk	0	194	826	265	1,285
Cooper's Hawk	0	29	68	25	122
N. Goshawk	0	0	3	4	7
Red-sh. Hawk	0	150	18	0	168
Broad-w. Hawk	0	0	6,808	1,269	8,077
Red-tailed Hawk	4	789	521	207	1,521
R.-legged. Hawk	7	15	13	2	37
Golden Eagle	0	2	1	1	4
Am. Kestrel	0	65	99	28	192
Merlin	0	1	6	2	9
Peregrine Falcon	0	2	3	3	8
UID Raptor	0	10	50	7	67
<b>Count TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5,787</b>	<b>14,074</b>	<b>2,636</b>	<b>22,508</b>
<b>Hour TOTALS</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>99.25</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>324.75</b>

Concerns about a wind-turbine project proposed for the area of the hawk watch continued to trouble our enjoyment of the migration. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Hawk Migration Association of North America and other national and international conservation organizations support the Ripley Hawk Watch in questioning the location of this project.

Comments or questions about this report or the Ripley Hawk Watch should be directed to Len DeFrancisco (716/665-4999) or Gil Randell (716/753-2333 or e-mail jangil@cecomet.net).

# Report of the 2005 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 10, 2005

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Mike Hamilton

## Weather Synopsis

Weather became a major factor in early migration on this count day. A deep low pressure area was located in the northern plains with a cold front trailing to the southwest through northern Texas and a warm front lifting northward from the Dakotas to New England. The warm front passed through the count area during the late morning passing Buffalo airport around 11 am. Attending the passage of the warm front was a vigorous squall line that moved through the count area from west to east with strong, gusty winds, intense lightning, and in some areas, marble-sized hail. As a result of the passage of the warm front, temperatures rose quickly, winds shifted from the east to the south, and sunshine greeted many counters during the afternoon.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:28 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:02 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEM P	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	54	50	30.25	Calm	
3:00 am	Light Fog	50	49	30.23	E5	
6:00 am	Light Fog	50	48	30.23	E8	
9:00 am	Cloudy	57	50	30.21	E12	Heavy squall at 11 AM
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	57	52	30.18	SE20,gust 26	Warm front passage
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	71	57	30.09	S7	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	73	56	30.02	SW12	
9:00 pm	Mainly Clear	63	53	30.01	S9	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

### G e e s e - H e r o n s

Snow Goose	2	(16 ,17)	Black Scoter	4	(1, 3, 11)
Canada Goose	17523		Long-tailed Duck	3379	
Mute Swan (adults)	7		Bufflehead	2716	
Tundra Swan	6		Common Goldeneye	509	
Wood Duck	318		Hooded Merganser	234	
Gadwall	40		Common Merganser	556	
American Wigeon	193		Red-breasted Merganser	5972	
American Black Duck	23		Ruddy Duck	205	(2, 10, 13)
Mallard	1154		unspecified waterfowl	13	(10, 20, 22)
Mallard x Black Duck	2	(3)	Ring-necked Pheasant	*	13
Blue-winged Teal	60		Ruffed Grouse	*	15
Northern Shoveler	201		Wild Turkey	198	
Northern Pintail	138		Red-throated Loon	3	(3)
Green-winged Teal	135		Common Loon	53	
Canvasback	32		Pied-billed Grebe	67	
Redhead	16	(10, 11, 21)	Horned Grebe	52	
Ring-necked Duck	846		Red-necked Grebe	237	
Greater Scaup	474		Double-crested Cormorant	845	
Lesser Scaup	154		American Bittern	*F	1 (7)
unspecified scaup	107	(3, 4, 26)	Great Blue Heron		163
Surf Scoter	5	(8, 16)	Great Egret		13 (9, 20)
White-winged Scoter	411		Black-crowned Night-Heron		222 (2, 9, 11)

### V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s

Turkey Vulture	948		Sharp-shinned Hawk	83
Osprey	28		Cooper's Hawk	27
Bald Eagle	22		Northern Goshawk	1 (24)
Northern Harrier	41		Red-shouldered Hawk	27

<u>Broad-winged Hawk</u>	2	(12, 24)	Peregrine Falcon	6	(4, 8, 11)
Red-tailed Hawk	405		Virginia Rail	2	(7, 12)
Rough-legged Hawk	*F	37	Sora	1	(11)
unspecified buteos		6 (3, 10, 20)	<u>Common Moorhen</u>	1	(10)
American Kestrel		116	American Coot	*F	98
<u>Merlin</u>		1 (5)	Sandhill Crane		2 (6)

### Plovers - Terns

Killdeer	361		Ring-billed Gull	19561	
Greater Yellowlegs	41	(4, 5, 13)	Herring Gull	909	
Lesser Yellowlegs	17		Iceland Gull	1 (2)	
Pectoral Sandpiper	14	(4, 5)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	1 (3)	
Wilson's Snipe	92		Great Black-backed Gull	139	
American Woodcock	42		unspecified gulls	10 (10)	
Little Gull	8	(2, 3, 20)	Caspian Tern	5	
Bonaparte's Gull	10990		Common Tern	38	

### Pigeons - Swallows

Rock Pigeon	923		Pileated Woodpecker	32	
Mourning Dove	1379		Eastern Phoebe	297	
Eastern Screech-Owl	7		<u>Blue-headed Vireo</u>	*F	1 (24)
Great Horned Owl	18		Blue Jay		615
Barred Owl	3	(12, 28)	American Crow		2548
Short-eared Owl	2	(3)	<u>Common Raven</u>		24
Belted Kingfisher	92		Horned Lark		87
Red-bellied Woodpecker	141		Purple Martin	*F	8 (1, 7, 28)
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	153		Tree Swallow		1017
Downy Woodpecker	374		N. Rough-winged Swallow		26
Hairy Woodpecker	133		Barn Swallow		15
Northern Flicker	688				

### Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee	1264		Eastern Bluebird	154	
Tufted Titmouse	167		Hermit Thrush	36	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	39		American Robin	5274	
White-breasted Nuthatch	264		Gray Catbird	2 (5, 22)	
Brown Creeper	137		Northern Mockingbird	24	
Carolina Wren	23		Brown Thrasher	6	
Winter Wren	37		European Starling	8005	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	529		American Pipit	21 (8, 17)	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*F	41	Cedar Waxwing	68	
<u>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</u>	*F	3 (5)			

### Warblers - House Sparrows

Yellow-rumped Warbler	7		Dark-eyed Junco	2870	
Pine Warbler	2	(24, 26)	unspecified sparrows	1 (20)	
<u>Louisiana Waterthrush</u>	*	3 (24)	Northern Cardinal	801	
Eastern Towhee	14		Red-winged Blackbird	6484	
American Tree Sparrow	194		Eastern Meadowlark	89	
Chipping Sparrow	261		Rusty Blackbird	286	
Field Sparrow	98		Common Grackle	3601	
Vesper Sparrow	3	(5, 27, 28)	Brown-headed Cowbird	1096	
Savannah Sparrow	143		Purple Finch	247	
Fox Sparrow	80		House Finch	1024	
Song Sparrow	2067		Pine Siskin	17	
Swamp Sparrow	128		American Goldfinch	837	
White-throated Sparrow	332		House Sparrow	1233	
White-crowned Sparrow	13		unspecified birds	2 (10)	

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total Species Observed: 143

Total Individual Birds Observed: 118,010

Number of Observers: 263

**COMPARATIVE INFORMATION:** Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, compare this year's records with those for 1996-2005 and those for 1935-2005. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2005 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

**INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:**

Highest counts: Great Egret, 13 (6.5 x the ave.); Bald Eagle, 22 (7 x the ave.); Peregrine Falcon, 6 (18 x the ave.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 153 (7 x the ave.); Common Raven, 24 (12 x the ave.); Winter Wren, 37 (3 x the ave.); White-throated Sparrow, 332 (6 x the ave.)

Lowest counts: None

Rare count sightings: Mallard x Black Duck hybrid), 2 (1st sighting)

**INDIVIDUAL SPECIES IN LAST DECADE**

Highest counts: Great Egret, 13 (2 x the ave.); Bald Eagle, 22 (2 x the ave.); Peregrine Falcon, 6 (6 x ave.); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 153 (2 x the ave.); Common Raven, 24 (2 x the ave.); Winter Wren, 37 (2 x the ave.); White-throated Sparrow, 332 (3 x the ave.)

Lowest counts: Tundra Swan, 6 (14% of ave.); Blue-winged Teal, 60 (58% of ave.); Lesser Scaup, 154 (10% of ave.); Ring-necked Pheasant, 13 (48% of ave.); American Kestrel, 116 (64% of ave.); Ring-billed Gull, 19,561 (56% of ave.); Herring Gull, 909 (30% of ave.); Rock Pigeon, 923 (70% of ave.); American Robin, 5274 (72% of ave.); European Starling, 8005 (60% of ave.); Rusty Blackbird, 286 (47% of ave.); total individuals, 118010 (72% of ave.)

Rare count sightings: Mallard x Black Duck hybrid), 2 (1st sighting); Common Moorhen, 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> sighting);

**NOTEABLE SPECIES AVERAGE CHANGES** (entire count period / last decade):

**INCREASES:** Wood Duck, 144/347; Gadwall, 26/65; Northern Shoveler, 43/158; Green-winged Teal, 84/194; Ring-necked Duck, 509/1038; Lesser Scaup, 777/1506; White-winged Scoter, 105/509; Long-tailed Duck, 1012/2529; Bufflehead, 1006/3109; Hooded Merganser, 124/231; Ruddy Duck, 76/349; Wild Turkey, 71/258; Red-throated Loon, 2/9; Common Loon, 31/74; Red-necked Grebe, 32/187; Double-crested Cormorant, 141/896; Great Blue Heron, 168/386; Great Egret, 2/7; Black-crowned Night-Heron, 47/151; Turkey Vulture, 260/987; Osprey, 8/28; Bald Eagle, 3/9; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 30/88; Cooper's Hawk, 12/25; Broad-winged Hawk, 27/177; American Coot, 185/412; Greater Yellowlegs, 14/33; Little Gull, 3/10; Bonaparte's Gull, 4535/14657; Great Black-backed Gull, 60/193; Caspian Tern, 7/34; Mourning Dove, 751/1601; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 20/84; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 23/71; Pileated Woodpecker 11/25; Eastern Phoebe, 128/244; Common Raven, 2/11; Tree Swallow, 687/1589; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 10/50; Barn Swallow, 19/48; Tufted Titmouse, 31/126; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 21/55; Carolina Wren, 4/14; Winter Wren, 11/20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 15/37; Hermit Thrush, 8/19; Northern Mockingbird, 6/22; Brown Thrasher, 2/4; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 7/20; Chipping Sparrow, 50/184; Swamp Sparrow, 39/91; White-throated Sparrow, 58/127; Northern Cardinal, 373/732; Rusty Blackbird, 283/605; Purple Finch, 99/183

**DECREASES:** Tundra Swan, 94/43; American Black Duck, 284/58; Northern Pintail, 1164/367; Canvasback, 401/115; Redhead, 133/32; Common Goldeneye, 911/420; Common Merganser, 1161/453; Ring-necked Pheasant, 91/29; Pectoral Sandpiper, 48/12; Horned Lark, 197/95; Vesper Sparrow, 62/11; Snow Bunting, 20/3; Eastern Meadowlark, 405/155; Red Crossbill, 6/2; Common Redpoll, 121/14; Pine Siskin, 91/13; Evening Grosbeak, 487/170

**OBSERVERS** (Section compilers are printed in **bold** face.):

Section 1: Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker

Section 2: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Brad Clements, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz

Section 3: Bill Broderick, Ken Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Dean Di Tommaso, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman

Section 4: Donna V. De Leon, **Robert L. De Leon**, Marie Johnson, Alice McKale

Section 5: Donald Brasure, William Burch, Sally Castren, Morgan Jones, **Susan O'Donnell**, Tom O'Donnell, Peter Yoerg

Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple

Section 7: Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, Ed Fuchs, Dennis Gralak, **Mike Hamilton**, Marg Partridge, Jim Rozanski

Section 8: Doug Happ, Richard Kajtoch, Brian Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**

Section 9: Thomas Bearss, Paul Benham, Olive Burch, Michael Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Debbie Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Joe Stein, Marlene Szuromi

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Section 11: Barbara Henderson, **Alec Humann**, Peter Yoerg

Section 12: Marion Bee, Greg Coniglio, Melissa Coniglio, Paul Fuhrmann, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mark Morgante, **Mike Morgante**, Gail Seamans

Section 13: Doug Beattie, Tad Gerace, Elaine Dart, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Rita Kautz, Aron Kehlenbeck Sr., Dolores Seamans, **Gail Seamans**, Virginia Tiede

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Section 22: Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Anita Cooney, Dave Cooney, Len De Francisco, Mike Lyons, Gil Randell, Jann Randell, Archie Richardson, Joyce Rose, **Bob Sundell**

Section 23: Len Di Francisco, Julie Heilman, Carol Miller, Jean Pigman, Bruce E. Robinson, Bruce J. Robinson, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**

Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Tom LeBlanc

(No count)

Section 25: **Doris Burton**, Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Bruce Smalley, Robert Smalley, Denton Willett

Section 26: Russell Allen, H. M. Bateman, **Doris Burton**, Jim Horn, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia

Section 27: Charlotte Alderson, Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Ellen Baker, H. M. Bateman, Carol Behn, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholz, **Doris Burton**, Gerry Cartledge, Mary Lou Cartledge, Dale Coats, Ruth Coats, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Paulette Copenheaver, Tina Cornell, Karol Doty, Audrey Dunham, Anne Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, John Gradoni, Gerri Hill, Ralph Hills, Jim Horn, Norman Ives, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Sue Lang, Woodie Lang, Cathy MacDonald, Peter MacDonald, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Vivian M. Pitzrick, Dan Rase, Peggy Rase, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Nancy Rouse, Jim Smith, Maureen Soule', Terah Soule', Wilma (Mrs. Bruce) Taggart, Bruce Taggart, Wilma Taggart, Abbey Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Cindy Vance, Gerry Vance, Barbara Ware, **Suzanne Wood**

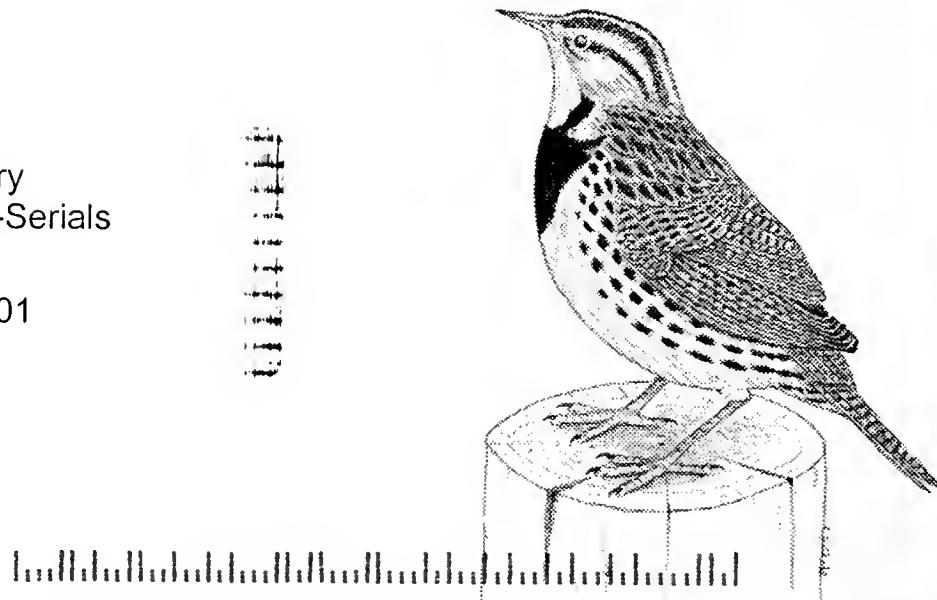
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## **July – August Calendar**

**July 31: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge to carpool. We will be going to Rock Point PP + others, Rock Point charges \$10.00 Canadian for entry, so bring Canadian money. We will consolidate the group into as few cars as possible at park entrance.

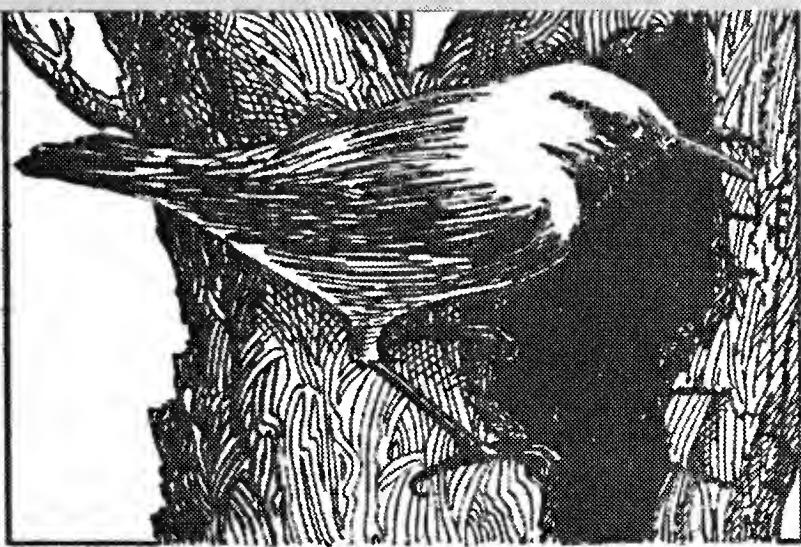
**August 21: BOS August Shorebird Count.** 6AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. Contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: [TerryYonker@cs.com](mailto:TerryYonker@cs.com)

**August 28: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti to carpool. See July 31 note above.



## **Buffalo-Niagara Region Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## THE MONTH: May

by Gerry Rising

This May's weather was most unusual. It was very dry: the total rainfall recorded at the airport, 0.6 in., the least in history there and 2.75 in. below normal. Only in 1934 and 1877 when the records were kept at the lakefront was it drier. It was also sunny, the sun appearing on every single day and 2/3 of the possible sunshine recorded. That would seem to make the month hard to criticize but it did have limitations. Despite all those sunny days, I found it a cold May. Records bear this out: the temperature average, 53.5 °F was 3.5° below average. On only one day, May 10th, did the temperature reach 80° and nighttime temperatures in the 30s were recorded on half of the first 18 days. Also, there were 12 days when the mostly mild winds had a northerly component and only 9 when the winds were substantially southern. Birders will correctly interpret that weather as providing no significant waves or dropouts of birds.

It was still a generally good month for birding and happily one of the best migration nights occurred on the 14th/15th to produce an excellent (8th highest) May Count on the 15th.

Late records with dates (see "Noteworthy Records" or May Count for locations and observers): Snow Goose 27, Pintail 21, Ring-necked Duck 21, Red-throated Loon 21, Red-necked Grebe 21, Rough-legged Hawk 21, Merlin 15, Iceland Gull 21, Lesser Black-backed Gull 28, Glaucous Gull 22, Pine Warbler 21, Lapland Longspur 5, Pine Siskin 31.

The only early record: Black-bellied Plover 3.

Rarities: Eurasian Wigeon 3,14; Golden Eagle 5; Sandhill Crane 1,5,9,15,27; Forster's Tern (out of season) 15; Sedge Wren 20,27,30; Yellow-throated Warbler 15; Worm-eating Warbler 6,15; Kentucky Warbler 11,15,21; Clay-colored Sparrow 8-31.

### 50 The Month

by Gerry Rising

### 52 Noteworthy Records

by Bruce Chilton

### 60 May Count

by Robert DeLeon

### 64 BOS Calendar

A few comments extracted and edited from verification reports: "At Times Beach I saw 5 ducks coming in from the Buffalo waterfront. They landed right in front of the blind, maybe 20 yards out. The group (all males) consisted of 1 Gadwall, 1 Blue-winged Teal, 2 American Wigeon and 1



Merlins photographed by John Humann near the Nardin Montessori school building on West Ferry Street between Elmwood and Delaware in Buffalo on July 11th (a,b) and April 15th (c). Clockwise from top-left: (a) fledgling Merlin at nest, (b) adult leaving nest, and (c) adults courting. As of July 14th, three young had fledged.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
  
Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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water, emerged with a small fish and flew off to the south-east."--Richard Byron.

"I had excellent looks at this bird, somewhat surprising because this [Sedge Wren] is typically a real skulker, even when singing."-- Mike Morgante. "Betsy [Potter] found this [Worm-eating Warbler] early in the morning as she was doing her daily survey of the yard with our friend, Marg."-- Willie D'Anna. "The [Kentucky Warbler] sang intermittently beginning about 7:20 a.m. giving its typical melodious and rolling *churry, churry, churry* song."--Alec Humann. "I first heard the Chipping Sparrow-like song of this bird. After searching I saw a foraging brownish-olive [Worm-eating Warbler] with distinctly black and tan striped head."--Tim Baird. "The [Yellow-throated Warbler] obligingly flew from the locust into the largely bare branches of a white ash. I was thankful that the white ash is late to leaf out."--Terry Mosher. "The shape of the [Yellow-breasted Chat's] bill, wings, body and long tail that it quickly flicked as foraged close to the ground looked to me more like a catbird than a warbler."--Bill Watson.

Eurasian Wigeon."-- Mike Morgante. (We can thank Bob Andrle, Paul MacLennan, *et al.* for these Times Beach improvements.) "We were on the road berm both looking at a raptor flying across a hayfield towards the edge of a woodlot. Based on the rapid beating of wings, long tail and pointed wings, I said to Seth, 'Falcon!'"--Jim and Seth Berry. "I have observed this breeding pair of Merlins' courtship behavior including flight displays, constant and loud calling, nest inspection, food offerings from the male to the female and copulation. The stick nest is located near the top of a white pine about 50 feet high -- likely an old crow nest."--Alec Humann. "At first glance I thought the three birds could have been Great Blue Herons. Immediately putting up my binoculars I recognized them as Sandhill Cranes."--Bill Watson. "The [Forster's Tern] made a graceful arching dive, splashed into the



*Clay-colored Sparrow photographed by Willie D'Anna near his home in the Town of Wilson on May 8, 2005.*

"Betsy heard a buzzy song that she thought might be a Clay-colored Sparrow. I could not hear it so we followed her ears to bird."--Willie D'Anna. "Upon looking up I saw several sparrow-like birds at the front of a large flock. My first reaction was that this might be a group of Bobolinks, but then upon seeing several adult males with their black heads and hearing the songs and call notes, I realized that this must be a late flock of Lapland Longspurs."--Mike Morgante. "After watching a Merlin fly over, I noticed a flock of about 75 birds that I guessed were pipits. They were mostly pipits but with them were at least 12 Lapland Longspurs, most males in gorgeous breeding plumage."--Willie D'Anna.

I salute the observers who provided excellent reports, many of them accompanied by superb photographs.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	<u>27</u>	1	Somerset	Morgante
* <u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	3F	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Watson et al
"	14	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
Northern Shoveler	3	4	Dunnville, Ont.	Watson
Northern Pintail	3	4	Dunnville, Ont.	Watson
"	29	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Green-winged Teal	3	7	Dunnville, Ont.	Watson
"	20	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Horst
Redhead	21	12	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	29	4	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
Ring-necked Duck	21	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	30	2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Surf Scoter	1L	4	Olcott	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Long-tailed Duck	20	1	Barker	Pawlicki
"	21L	2	Somerset	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
Red-br. Merganser	3; 25	32; 8	Rock Point PP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	22	1	West Lincoln	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	35	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-throated Loon	21	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Morgante et al
Common Loon	1	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-necked Grebe	<u>21</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Morgante et al
D.-crested Cormorant	3	120 (38 n)	Reef Lighthouse, Bflo.	Watson
"	16; 27	367(158 n); 195 (80 n)	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	25	640	Mohawk I.	Watson
"	27	29 (14 n)	Motor I.	Watson
American Bittern	8	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
"	21	1	Tifft NP	K&J Landau et al
Great Egret	2 - 27	5 rec; 42 max	Motor I.	Watson
"	2	3	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	14 - 31	2 max	Tonawanda	Hess
"	20; 25	2; 1	Times Beach NP	Andrle; Hess
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2; 16; 27	19; 8; 15	Motor I.	Watson
"	19	23 (8 n)	Niagara Falls	Watson
Turkey Vulture	9; 19; 26	82; 73; 31	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson
Osprey	1	1	Hartland	S&T O'Donnell
"	1; 3; 12	2; 1; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	7	1	Orchard Park	Holmes
"	9	3	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson
"	24	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon, Hannah
"	29	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson et al
Bald Eagle	5	12	Somerset	D'Anna
"	6	1 imm	Lackawanna	DiTommaso

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1 imm	Evangola SP	DiTommaso
"	10	1 imm	Tifft NP	Watson
"	14	1 imm	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19; 27	1 ad; 2 ad & 2 yg	Navy I.	Watson
"	26	1 imm	Arcade	Morgante
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	1 (n)	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg
"	12	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	29	1	Ward	Brooks
Broad-winged Hawk	1	71	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	9; 19	11; 2	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	Dunnville	Watson
"	10	2 imm	Evangola SP	DiTommaso
"	<u>21L</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	5	1	Somerset	D'Anna
Merlin	5	1	Hartland	D'Anna
"	7	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	<u>14</u>	1	Mina	Berry
Virginia Rail	1	1	Tifft NP	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	7	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Sora	1; 6	1; 1	Tifft NP	Morgante; Watson
Common Moorhen	8; 29	4; 3	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell; Watson
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	1	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	5	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	9	3	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Watson
"	27	2	Hartland	D'Anna
* Black-bellied Plover	<u>3F</u> ; 8	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Watson et al; Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	27	3	Somerset	Morgante
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Semipalmated Plover	8F	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	14	10	Yates	D'Anna et al
Upland Sandpiper	22	1	West Lincoln	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	2	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Whimbrel	22F	2	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	29	9	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruddy Turnstone	22; 25	6; 3	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	30	10	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Red Knot	25F	2	Rock Point PP	Watson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	21	3	Squaw I.	Landon
"	22	1	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Least Sandpiper	14F	35	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	20	30	Somerset	Morgante
* Dunlin	5F	3	Hartland	D'Anna
"	8	10	Long Beach CA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22; 25	100; 25	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	30	60	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-b. Dowitcher	24	5	Newstead	Morgante
"	25	7	Long Beach CA	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	3	1100	Fort Erie	Watson
"	3	150	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
Iceland Gull	1	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	<u>21L</u>	1	Olcott	D'Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>20</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	<u>28L</u>	1	Olcott	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	21	1	Olcott	D'Anna, Morgante et al
"	<u>22L</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Caspian Tern	1	4	Sturgeon Pt.	Andrle
"	8	3	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	8	1	Lowbanks, Ont.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	16	Rock Point PP	Watson
Black Tern	18	1	Machias	DeSha
"	21	15	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	26	14	Iroquois NWR	Sharon
"	29	5	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	10	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	30	5	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
* Black-billed Cuckoo	11F	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Lazarczyk
"	30	1	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	28F	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	29	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	29	1	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-eared Owl	17; 28	1; 3	Amherst SP	Morgante; Pawlicki et al
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	27	1	Cherry Creek	Watson
* Common Nighthawk	18F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	19	1	Hamburg hawkwatch	Watson
"	26	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Bogacki
"	29	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki et al
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	8F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	10	1	Colden	K&J Landau
Red-headed Wdpkr.	8	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Andrle
"	11	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	14	4	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22	3	Fort Erie	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	31	2	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	14	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	14F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson
* Acadian Flycatcher	10F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	21	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Alder Flycatcher	26	6	Eagle	Morgante
"	28	1	Alfred	Brooks
Willow Flycatcher	18	2	Eagle	Morgante
* Least Flycatcher	6F	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso
"	7	1	Somerset	D'Anna
"	7	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	7	1	Brant	Morgante, Neveu
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	3F; 29	1; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	7	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	7	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	7	1	Orchard Park	Morgante, Neveu
"	7	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Eastern Kingbird	5F	3	Somerset	D'Anna, Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	7	2	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
White-eyed Vireo	14	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	6F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
* Warbling Vireo	2F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	3	1	Wilson	Potter
* Philadelphia Vireo	11F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	19	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
* Red-eyed Vireo	5F	1	Colden	K&J Landau
"	11	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Common Raven	8; 21; 28	1; 1; 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	11	2	<u>Eagle</u>	Morgante
"	24	1	<u>Bennington</u>	Morgante
"	29	2	Ward	Brooks
"	31	2	Andover	Brooks
Purple Martin	1 - 31	2 max	Grand I.	Lazarczyk et al
Cliff Swallow	27	18 (38 n)	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	31	15	Andover	Brooks
Red-br. Nuthatch	12	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	14	2	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson
Carolina Wren	7	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	7	1	Youngstown (f)	Landon
"	7; 8	1; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	11; 30	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Hess; Andrle
"	13	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	21	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morgante et al
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Winter Wren	1	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	8	1	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
"	12	2	Machias	DeSha
* <u>Sedge Wren</u>	20F; 27	1; 1	Somerset	Morgante
"	30	2	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Marsh Wren	1F; 14	2; 4	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	6; 10	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	6	4	Machias	DeSha
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	26	1	Eagle	Morgante
"	27L	1	Somerset	Morgante
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1; 14	1; 4	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Veery	6F; 10	1; 2	Tifft NP	DiTommaso, Watson
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	10F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	11	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	17	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	28	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
* Swainson's Thrush	10F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Wood Thrush	3F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5	1	Tonawanda	Hess
American Pipit	5	60	Hartland	D'Anna
"	5	74	Lakeside Mem Pk	Andrle, Rew
"	5; 21L	25; 2	Somerset	Morgante; Morgante et al
"	18	1	Eagle	Morgante
* Blue-winged Warbler	6F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	7	1	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Golden-wing. Warbler	21	1	Newfane	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	1	Shelby	Yoerg, Henderson
* Brewster's Warbler	22F	1	Lockport	Sowinski
	27	1	Stockton	Watson, Pawlicki
* Tennessee Warbler	10F	1	Amherst SP	Sowinski
"	10F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Orange-cr. Warbler	7F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	8	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	9; 10	1; 1	Wilson	Potter
"	16; 17	1; 1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	18	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	22L	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
* Northern Parula	8F	4	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	2	Wilson	Potter
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	3F	1	Amherst SP	Sowinski
"	7	1	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
"	7	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Magnolia Warbler	10F	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	11	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Cape May Warbler	6F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	6F; 10	1; 2	Wilson	Potter; D'Anna, Potter
"	8	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	18; 19L	1; 1	Buffalo	Yoerg
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	6F; 19	2; 1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	6F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	7	2	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
"	7	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Blackburnian Warbler	2F	1	Niagara Falls AFB	Lazarczyk
Pine Warbler	1 - <u>19</u>	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	<u>21</u>	1	Olcott	Morgante et al
"	<u>21</u>	1	Wilson	Morgante et al
* Prairie Warbler	6F; 10	1; 1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso; Sharon
Palm Warbler	14	10	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	22L	1	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Bay-breasted Warbler	8F	1	Goat I.	Potter, D'Anna
"	12	1	Tifft NP	Watson, DiTommaso
* Blackpoll Warbler	10F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	2	Goat I.	Roberson
* Cerulean Warbler	14F	2	Royalton	D'Anna et al
"	14F	2	Tonawanda Ind. Res.	D'Anna et al
"	14F	2	Tifft NP	Sharon, Morgante, Yoerg, Henderson
"	19	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Black-and-white Warb.	5	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* American Redstart	5F; 6	1; 1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso; Watson
* Prothonotary Warbler	26F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Sharon
"	29	2	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* <u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	6F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Ovenbird	6F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	6	1	Tifft NP	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	7	1	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
* Northern Waterthrush	3F	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
La. Waterthrush	1; 8	1; 2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	29	1	Colden	J Landau
* <u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	11F	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso, Watson, Humann et al
"	21	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Welte
Mourning Warbler	18	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	18	2	Eagle	Morgante
"	21	1	Ward	Brooks
"	21; 28	1; 1	Somerset	Potter,Morgante et al;Morgante
* Common Yellowthroat	6F; 10	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson, Sharon
"	6F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	7	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
* Hooded Warbler	6F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	7	1	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
* Wilson's Warbler	7F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	10	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	30L	3	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Canada Warbler	10F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	1	Lake Erie SP	Watson, Pawlicki
* Yellow-br. Chat	12F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Sweeney
"	30; 31	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	1	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Scarlet Tanager	10F	1; 3	Tifft NP	Watson; Sharon
"	10F	1	Wales Center	Lazarczyk, Rising
"	10F	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	10F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	12	1	Mansfield	Lazarczyk
* <u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	8F - 31	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	10; 17	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Newfane	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Ashford	K&J Landau
Grasshopper Sparrow	27	2	Somerset	Morgante
"	29	1	Tillman WMA	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	30	2	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	31	1	Andover	Brooks
* Lincoln's Sparrow	6F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	7	3	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
"	21L	2	Tifft NP	Pawlicki et al
Lapland Longspur	5	12	Hartland	D'Anna
"	5	85	Somerset	Morgante
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	4F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	4F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	6	3	Colden	K&J Landau
"	6	1	Wilson	Potter
"	6; 17	2; 1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
* Indigo Bunting	10F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	11	2	Colden	K&J Landau
"	11	1	Wilson	Potter
* Bobolink	5F	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	7	1	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
* Orchard Oriole	8F	1	<u>Times Beach NP</u>	Andrle et al
"	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	3	Barker	Pawlicki, Horst
"	20; 27	4; 1	Somerset	Morgante
"	21	1	Olcott	D'Anna
"	21	1	Wilson	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Newfane	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	21	2	Barker	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	22	2	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Rock Point PP	Watson
* Baltimore Oriole	5F	1	Colden	K&J Landau
"	5F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	7	6	Evangola SP	Morgante, Neveu
"	7	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Pine Siskin	14	1	Silver Creek	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Wilson	Morgante, D'Anna, Potter
"	31	2	Youngstown (f)	Landon

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 182

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month including the May Count:** 073

**Total for the year 2005:** 255

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

#### ERRATA, VOL. 71, No.5 May, 2005;

Page 40: Add: Broad-winged Hawk      9,10      1      Allegany State Park      LeBlanc  
Page 41: Delete: \* Eastern Wood-Pewee      16      2      Ripley      Galas

#### APRIL 10, 2005 BIRD COUNT:

**Page 47:** 1. Replace Weather Synopsis with the following:

#### Weather Synopsis

Weather on count day this year was tranquil compared to the stormy April Bird Count of 2004. A weak cold front passed through the count area during the previous 12 hours, but the air was of Pacific origin and thus moderated. This resulted in clear skies and warmer than normal temperatures throughout the day despite the light and occasionally brisk winds from the north and northeast.

#### Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:42 AM EDT      Sunset: 7:52 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND
12:00 am	Mostly Clear	46	29	30.08	E7
3:00 am	Mainly Clear	43	29	30.05	E5
6:00 am	Mainly Clear	39	27	30.08	N3
9:00 am	Mostly Sunny	48	25	30.14	NE7
12:00 pm	Mostly Sunny	60	30	30.15	NE13
3:00 pm	Mostly Sunny	65	29	30.11	VR3
6:00 pm	Partly Sunny	65	34	30.10	NE12
9:00 pm	Mainly Clear	56	32	30.13	NE6

2. Add one (1) Northern Harrier changing the total to 42.

**Page 48:** 1. Delete the \*F indication after Rough-legged Hawk and American Coot and insert the \*F indication after Broad-winged Hawk and Common Moorhen.

2. Add two (2) Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen in Section 6 changing the total to 3.

3. In the data listing, those species for which an acceptable written verification form was received were incorrectly identified by underlining. They should have been identified using **bold-faced** font. Therefore replace the underlined name with a bold-faced name for the following species: **Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Common Moorhen, Blue-headed Vireo, Common Raven, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pine Warbler and Louisiana Waterthrush.**

4. Change the number of individuals observed from 118,010 to 118,013.

# **69<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Ornithological Society May Bird Count**

**Compiled by Robert DeLeon, May 15, 2005**

## **Weather Synopsis\***

During the late evening before the count an active cold front swept through the BOS Study Area from the west ending a period of moderate showers and a few thunderstorms. NEXRAD radar showed a strong movement of birds northward across the study area, especially the Canadian count sections, just behind the rain shield and the front. The morning of the count began with light fog in many locations followed by mostly sunny skies, cool temperatures, and brisk, gusty southwest winds by midday.

\*The weather synopsis was provided by Terry Yonker.

## **Greater Buffalo International Airport** (weather data provided by National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY)

Sunrise: 5:53 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:32 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Cloudy	58	58	29.69	S7	
3:00 am	Cloudy	49	49	29.73	SW10	Light Fog
6:00 am	Mainly Clear	48	48	29.76	SW9	Light Fog
9:00 am	Cloudy	53	50	29.79	SW18G26	
12:00 pm	Partly Sunny	53	46	29.83	SW21G28	
3:00 pm	Partly Sunny	55	44	29.85	SW20G26	
6:00 pm	Mostly Sunny	53	42	29.86	SW15G26	
9:00 pm	Mainly Clear	47	42	29.88	SW12	
12:00 pm						

## **Compilation**

The following is a list of species seen on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers appear in parentheses. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. F and L represent the first and last dates for the spring migration. \* represents the first record for the year.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Section</u>			
<b>Loons-Ducks</b>					
Common Loon	32		American Wigeon	7	(11)
Pied-billed Grebe	13		American Black Duck	2	(8)
Double-crested Cormorant	2921		Mallard	940	
American Bittern	1	(10)	Blue-winged Teal	24	
Great Blue Heron	500		Northern Pintail	2	(6)
Great Egret	44	(8,9,11)	Canvasback	1	(9)
Green Heron	57		Redhead	4	(10)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	208	(2,11,9)	Ring-necked Duck	4	(1,11)
Turkey Vulture	779		Lesser Scaup	32	(7,9,13)
Canada Goose	4017		White-winged Scoter	37	(3,4)
Mute Swan	6	(1,2,5)	Long-tailed Duck	463	(3,4)
Wood Duck	313		Bufflehead	12	(8,11,21)
			Common Goldeneye	3	(19)
			Hooded Merganser	29	
			Common Merganser	28	

Red-breasted Merganser	1641		Barred Owl	5	(19,20,23)			
Ruddy Duck	11	(13)	Chimney Swift	471				
waterfowl species	6		Ruby-throated Hummingbird	182				
<b>Raptors-Coots</b>								
Osprey	22		Belted Kingfisher	66				
Bald Eagle	17		Red-headed Woodpecker	7				
Northern Harrier	20		Red-bellied Woodpecker	152				
Sharp-shinned Hawk	28		Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	60				
Cooper's Hawk	27		Downy Woodpecker	288				
Red-shouldered Hawk	17		Hairy Woodpecker	116				
Broad-winged Hawk	22		Northern Flicker	263				
Red-tailed Hawk	207		Pileated Woodpecker	35				
Rough-legged Hawk	1	(27)	Eastern Wood Pewee	13				
American Kestrel	53		*Yellow-bellied Flycatcher F	1	(20)			
<b>Merlin</b>	2	(11)	Acadian Flycatcher	3	(14,22)			
Peregrine Falcon	2	(11)	*Alder Flycatcher F	1	(16)			
hawk species	3		*Willow Flycatcher F	20				
Ring-necked Pheasant	26		Least Flycatcher	94				
Ruffed Grouse	11		unidentified empidonax	10				
Wild Turkey	117		Eastern Phoebe	208				
Virginia Rail	5		Great Crested Flycatcher	130				
Sora	2	(2,9)	Eastern Kingbird	235				
Common Moorhen	5		White-eyed Vireo	2	(6,10)			
American Coot	10	(5,10,11)	Yellow-throated Vireo	4	(1,3,13)			
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>	1	(4)	Blue-headed Vireo	47				
<b>Plovers-Terns</b>			Warbling Vireo	174				
Semipalmated Plover	64		Philadelphia Vireo	10				
Killdeer	409		Red-eyed Vireo	221				
Greater Yellowlegs	6	(4,5)	Blue Jay	2212				
Lesser Yellowlegs	73		American Crow	2200				
unidentified yellowlegs	4		<b>Common Raven</b>	23				
Solitary Sandpiper	29		Horned Lark	18				
Spotted Sandpiper	128		Purple Martin	404				
*Upland Sandpiper F	3	(7,10)	Tree Swallow	2873				
*Ruddy Turnstone F	3	(5,13,21)	No. Rough-winged Swallow	1338				
*Semipalmated Sandpiper F	15		Bank Swallow	745				
*Sanderling F	1	(6)	Cliff Swallow	221				
Least Sandpiper	189		Barn Swallow	2950				
*White-rumped Sandpiper F	5	(1,4)	<b>Chickadees-Waxwings</b>					
Pectoral Sandpiper	6	(1,10)	Black-capped Chickadee	925				
Dunlin	63		Tufted Titmouse	154				
*Short-billed Dowitcher F	20		Red-breasted Nuthatch	78				
Wilson's Snipe	5		White-breasted Nuthatch	190				
American Woodcock	12		Brown Creeper	24				
*Wilson's Phalarope F	2	(1)	Carolina Wren	22				
unspecified shorebirds	73		House Wren	420				
Bonaparte's Gull	463		Winter Wren	11				
Ring-billed Gull	39444		Marsh Wren	26				
Herring Gull	4714		Golden-crowned Kinglet	34				
Great Black-backed Gull	94		Ruby-crowned Kinglet	51				
<b>Iceland Gull</b>	3	(1,3)	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	70				
Caspian Tern	123		Eastern Bluebird	144				
Common Tern	388		Veery	71				
Black Tern	36	(5,10)	Swainson's Thrush	9				
*Forster's Tern F	2	(20,21)	Hermit Thrush	21				
<b>Doves-Swallows</b>			Wood Thrush	224				
Rock Pigeon	1157		American Robin	4927				
Mourning Dove	1444		Gray Catbird	812				
Black-billed Cuckoo	7	(7,13,20)	Northern Mockingbird	19				
Eastern Screech-Owl	4		Brown Thrasher	36				
Great Horned Owl	4	(12,19,26)	European Starling	5137				
			American Pipit	141				
			Cedar Waxwing	136				

## Warblers

Blue-winged Warbler	110	
*Golden-winged Warbler F	5	(3,11,28)
Tennessee Warbler	44	
Orange-crowned Warbler	6	
Nashville Warbler	101	
Northern Parula	28	
Yellow Warbler	2574	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	265	
Magnolia Warbler	154	
Cape May Warbler	19	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	116	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	668	
Black-throated Green Warbler	163	
Blackburnian Warbler	122	
Pine Warbler	26	
Prairie Warbler	8	(18,28)
Palm Warbler	93	
Bay-breasted Warbler	42	
Blackpoll Warbler	11	
Cerulean Warbler	8	(5,24)
Black-and-white Warbler	120	
American Redstart	242	
Ovenbird	172	
Northern Waterthrush	29	
<b>Kentucky Warbler</b>	1	(24)
*Mourning Warbler F	7	
Common Yellowthroat	508	
Hooded Warbler	105	
Wilson's Warbler	9	
Canada Warbler	7	
<b>Worm-eating Warbler</b>	1	(24)
<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>	1	(20)
warbler species	2	

## Tanagers-Sparrows

Scarlet Tanager	93	
Eastern Towhee	121	
Chipping Sparrow	1210	
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>	4	(3,28)
Field Sparrow	172	
Vesper Sparrow	1	(4)
Savannah Sparrow	177	
*Grasshopper Sparrow F	7	(7,10,21)
Fox Sparrow	8	(9,19,28)
Song Sparrow	1280	
Lincoln's Sparrow	9	
Swamp Sparrow	106	
White-throated Sparrow	152	
White-crowned Sparrow	638	
Dark-eyed Junco	256	
Northern Cardinal	822	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	729	
Indigo Bunting	105	
Bobolink	595	
Red-winged Blackbird	5382	
Eastern Meadowlark	128	
Rusty Blackbird	5	(3,12)
Common Grackle	3498	
Brown-headed Cowbird	814	
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>	14	

Baltimore Oriole	1129	
Purple Finch	164	
House Finch	486	
Pine Siskin	9	(3,28)
American Goldfinch	2734	
Evening Grosbeak	2	(19,26)
House Sparrow	1458	

**Total Species Observed: -207 205**

**Total Individual Birds Observed: 119,305**

### Notable Count Highs: 205

The number of species (206) is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest observed on the May count since it started in 1935. The number of individuals (119,287) is the largest total on the May count. Seventeen individual species were recorded at their highest total ever: Double-crested Cormorant (2921), Great Egret (44), Turkey Vulture (779), Red-breasted Merganser (1641), Bald Eagle (17), Wild Turkey (117), Ring-billed Gull (39,444), Iceland Gull (3), Pileated Woodpecker (35), Blue Jay (2212), Common Raven (25), Golden-crowed Kinglet (34), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (70), Yellow Warbler (2574), Palm Warbler (93), and Clay-colored Sparrow (4). A number of species also were recorded at their second highest total since the count began.

### Notable Species:

Yellow-throated Warbler, sixth record on the May count and the second year in a row. Iceland Gull (3), third record on May count and the third year in a row. Worm-eating warbler, third record on the May count and Kentucky Warbler, 11<sup>th</sup> record on the May count.

### Notable Count Lows:

Due to the large overall numbers of individuals, few species were recorded in very low numbers: Vesper Sparrow (1) was lowest number ever recorded on the May count. Common Nighthawk was not observed for the first time since 1945.

### Observers (Section compliers in boldface.)

**Section 1:** David Cooper, Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker

**Section 2:** Brian Ahara, Paul Benham, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz

**Section 3:** Edward Crohn, Betsy Potter-D'Anna, Willie D'Anna, Brett Ewald, Sheryl Ewald, Jerrold J. Farrell, Barbara Henderson, Patricia Kornacker, Neil Patterson Jr., Sarah Patterson, **Donald Roberson**, Vicki Rothman, Timothy Simon, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Coleen Walsh, John Welte, Martha Welte, Peter Yoerg, Bruce Zahno, Kim Zahno, Paul Ziebarth

**Section 4:** Michelle Coblenz, Willie D'Anna, Julie Eberhart, Neal Gordon, Jim Pawlicki, **Bill Watson**

**Section 5:** Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Jim Rozanski, **Liz Wells**

**Section 6:** **Jerry Chappell**, George Thomas

**Section 7:** Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, Ed Fuchs, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield, Sonja Mansfield, Marg Partridge

**Section 8:** Doug Happ, **Mike Zebehazy**

**Section 9:** Tom Bearss, Pat Bogan, Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Jerry Lazarczyk, Scott Meier,

Debra Milleville, Susan O' Donnell, Thomas O'Donnell,

**Gerry Rising**, Joe Stein

**Section 10:** Donna DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**

**Section 11:** Sally Castren, Barbara Henderson, Alec Humann, Marie Johnson, Alice McKale, Susan O' Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vana

**Section 12:** Marion Bee, Greg Coniglio, Melissa Coniglio, Joe DiDomenico, Paul Fuhrmann, Wayne Gall, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, **Gail Seamans**

**Section 13:** Doug Beattie, Sharon Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Charles Graney, Aron Kehlenbeck, Tyler Kehlenbeck, Zeke Kehlenbeck, **Jane Mason**, Marc Mason, **Max Mason**, David Muller, Joe Salvador, Paula Stone, Donald Thurau, Anita Wierzba

**Section 14:** Ken Brandes, Bill Dobler, Joanne Dobler, Tim Goff, Fred Harrington, Mark Leous, Glenna Leous, Patty Madigan, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Paul Vigyikan, Nancy Vigyikan, Marg Vogel, **Barb Walker**

**Section 15:** William Bogacki, Ed Ratajczak, Dennis Russell

**Section 16:** Patricia Andrlé, Robert Andrlé, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Francis Rew**

**Section 17:** Chris Marcello

**Section 18:** Bruce Chilton, Mike Desha, Pattie Kaiser, Jim Landau

**Section 19:** Ron Andrews, **Doris Burton**, Faye Clancy, Barbara Cronk, Dora Lilly, Bob Smalley, Ann Vaclavik, Denton Willett

**Section 20:** William Baker, Karen Brisley, Ken Brisley, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clark, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Peggy Langer, Terry Mahoney, Jane McMastrer, Richard Miga, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Jeanine Smith, Marvin Smith, Kathy Sooter, Ted Taft, Jordan Whitney

**Section 21:** Barbara Carlson, Don Carlson, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Mike Lyons, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Linda O'Brien, William O'Brien, Anne Schettine, Linda Seleen, William Seleen, **Bob Sundell**, Kirk Vamstrom

**Section 22:** Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Doug Carson, Nacy Karp, Normal Karp, Ranjit Laha, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 23:** Lee Anderson, Anita Cooney, David Cooney, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Ruth Lundin, Steven Maggio, Jean Pigman, Bob Shaul, Mary Shaul, Thomas Simmons, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 24:** Tim Baird

**Section 25:** Tim Baird, Stephan W. Eaton, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy

**Section 26:** Lisa Andrus, **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Bob Smalley

**Section 27:** Russell Allen, H. M. Bateman, **Doris Burton**, Jim Horn, Norman Ives, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia, Wilma Sanford

**Section 28:** Russell Allen, Dan Babcock, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholtz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, Diane Converso, Jim Copenheaver, Tina Cornell, Elsie Cushing, **Val Cushing**, Karol Doty, Audrey Dunham, Anne Eisenhardt, Jamie Eisenhardt, Peg Eisenhardt, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, John Gradoni, Edie Greenleaf, Pat Halse, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Sue Lange, Woodie Lange, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, **Kathleen MacDonald**, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Vivian

Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Peggy Rase, Ona Reynolds, Nancy Rouse, Jim Smith, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Conner Stephens, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Mary Trouslot, Cindy Vance, Gerry Vance, Barbara Ware, Mary Lu Wells, Suzanne Wood

**Total number of observers:** 266

#### **Verification report submission**

Rare and out of normal season birds, that is those requiring a verification report as per the BOS "Verification Date Guide", are not added to the count unless a verification report is submitted. This year and every other year several species were not recorded because the appropriate verification reports were not submitted. The count compliers wish to thank those people who took the time to complete verification reports. Those who sent verification reports directly to us include: Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter-D'Anna, Neal Gordon, Jim Pawlicki, William Watson, Terry Mosher, Bob Sundell, and Tim Baird,

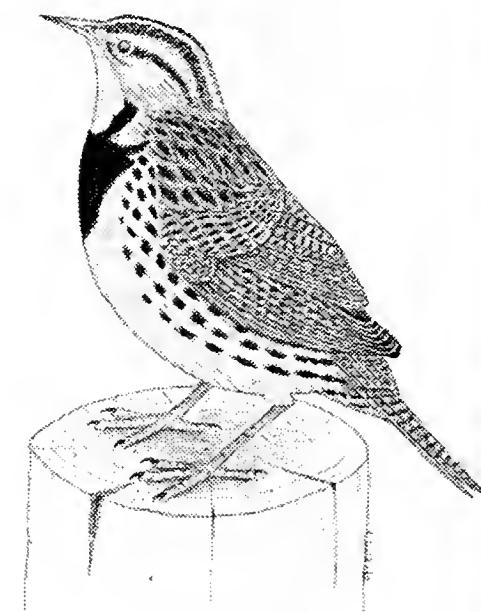
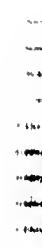
**Count Compilers:** **Robert L. DeLeon and Donna V. DeLeon**

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## **July – August Calendar**

**July 31: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge to carpool. We will be going to Rock Point PP + others, Rock Point charges \$10.00 Canadian for entry, so bring Canadian money. We will consolidate the group into as few cars as possible at park entrance.

**August 21: BOS August Shorebird Count.** 6AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. Contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: [TerryYonker@cs.com](mailto:TerryYonker@cs.com)

**August 28: Sunday. Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti to carpool. See July 31 note above.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### THE MONTH: June

by Joe Thill

Following a very dry May, the month of June began with increasing heat and humidity. The weather for Buffalo and adjacent suburbs in June was warm, the warmest June in 39 years in Buffalo and environs as summer heat and humidity baked Western New York for most of the month. Indeed only a week-long cool spell at mid-month kept it from being the warmest June on record as two long warm periods provided the most persistent heat wave that the region had experienced in several years. The average temperature of 71.8 °F at Buffalo was six degrees above normal for the month making it the fourth warmest June on record; three record high temperature readings on the 9th, 26th and 27th were the hottest in 10 years while three daily minimum temperatures were recorded on June 12th through 28th. Rainfall was sparse during June with over two-thirds of the monthly total of 3.27 inches falling in just two hours in an overnight deluge between June 9th and 10th. Those two inches of badly needed rainfall fell at the airport with violent thunder storms causing flooding and other property damage in the areas south and east of Buffalo. There followed a change at mid-month bringing a week of cool, cloudy unsettled conditions and temperatures in the high sixties as the month drew to a close. Only 0.06 inch of rain fell during the last twelve days at Buffalo. Even those thunderstorms were restricted to areas well south and east of the city and most areas became parched once again by month's end. Lake Erie did not get its usual cooling and its temperature warmed to 71 °F by the end of June. Winds were not a factor in June; the usual southwest flow was largely absent so Buffalo did not get its usual cooling effect from Lake Erie this year.

The heat and humidity notwithstanding, our local birdwatchers continued to give a good

account of themselves well into the month of June as the Noteworthy Records in this issue of The Prothonotary will attest. They reported a seemingly endless flight of warblers and other passerine migrants; records accepted for publication in June totaled 79 species including six requiring written verification. It was indeed an exciting month afield.

On June 2nd, Bill Watson, Jim Pawlicki and earlier, Willie D'Anna observed a Clay-colored Sparrow in full song on the front lawn of a rural residence on Lake Road in the Town of Wilson, Niagara County. It was subsequently seen and identified there by a number of observers in full song with its low mono-pitched buzzes and its diagnostic head stripes. On June 4th a second Clay-colored Sparrow was reported by Mike Morgante who located at least one

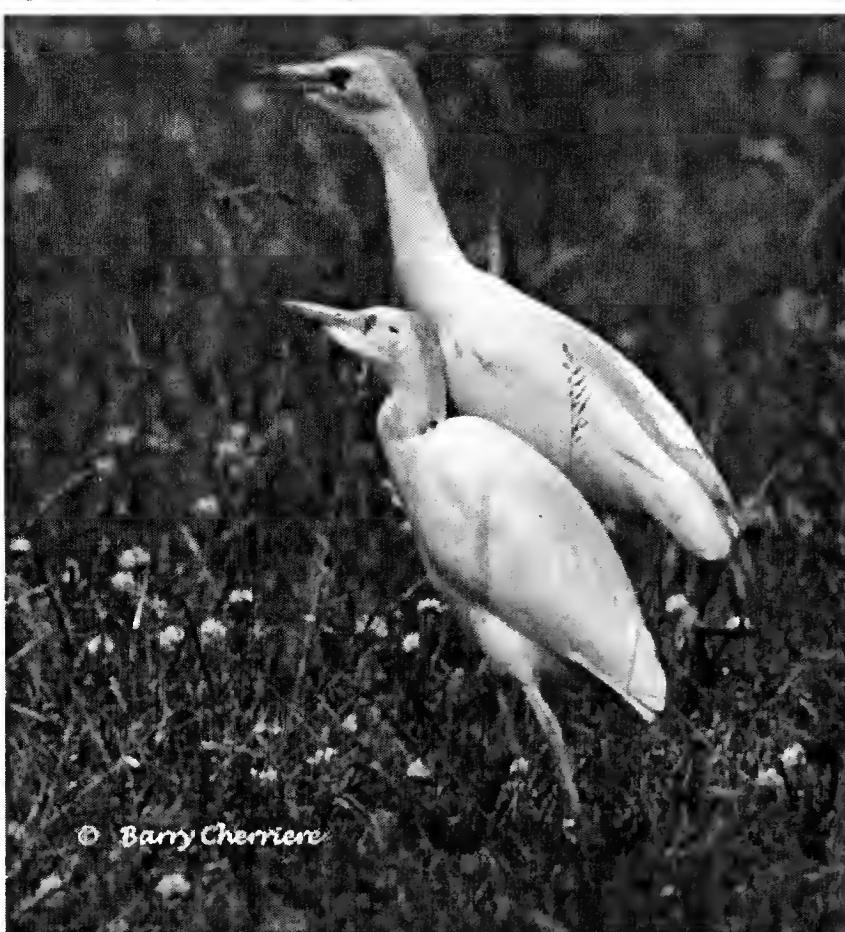


Figure: Two Cattle Egrets photographed by Barry Cherriere of Hamilton, Ont. on June 28<sup>th</sup> in Dunnville, Ontario near Rock Point Provincial Park.

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Please mail correspondence to: Jack Skalicky 178 N Main, Suite K55 Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075 [Email] <a href="mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu">skalicky@biochem.utah.edu</a>	
Ed. Consultants:	Robert Andrle Gerry Rising William Watson Audrey Horbett Eileen Hull
<b>Production:</b>	
<b>Society Officers:</b>	
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Peter Yoerg's and Barbara Henderson's discovery on June 5th of a Yellow-throated Warbler in full song in Allegany State Park where until recently this species was classified as an uncommon summer resident. More recently, Jim Pawlicki and Richard Salembier discovered four Yellow-throated Warblers, two adults and two fledglings, in a stand of mixed conifers and deciduous hardwood trees at Red House Lake in this Cattaraugus County park. On June 10th Mike Morgante, in the course of his field surveys in various locations in the Town of Eagle, Wyoming County, heard several bird songs with repeated buzzes (zee zee, zee zee) he immediately recognized as the call note of a Prairie Warbler, a species with which he is very familiar having seen it and witnessed its song over the past five years.

During the course of surveying [Somerset] "private property" on June 20th, Mike Morgante discovered two "wren-sized" birds he identified as Sedge Wrens. At Tillman Wildlife Management Area he discovered other individuals of this species on the 26th and 27th. These are described by Sibley as "one of several species of small secretive birds that spend most of their time hiding in dense

bird of this species, also in full song in a conifer grove on Keller Road in the Town of Yorkshire, Cattaraugus County.

Earlier in the month, Mike Morgante's field studies in the Southern Tier counties in June continued to yield interesting records. On June 4th, he located one and possibly two Pine Warblers, both singing males in a mature stand of pine trees in the Erie County Forest in the Town of Sardinia, Erie County. On June 18th Morgante located a singing male of this species in an open area adjoining Chestnut Ridge Park, Erie County. Other records of interest include a Cattle Egret observed on June 22nd in near breeding plumage by Watson and Pawlicki at Rock Point Provincial Park on the northeast shore of Lake Erie in the Province of Ontario. Field Note: The birds were feeding mainly on insects and cattle dung.

Other sightings of interest in June include

tall grass." Morgante found the birds singing and making short flights in a close area. His observations in the Somerset private property area and in the Tillman Wildlife Management Area in the Town of Clarence, Erie County were from habitats described as grassy meadows.

On June 27th, Bill Watson, Jim Pawlicki and Eric Lobato also observed two Sedge Wrens in tall grass at the Tillman Wildlife Management Area. The two birds were studied 5 to 20 yards apart, with the observers closely scanning plumage and other field marks that confirmed their identification.

Other sightings in June include a Worm-eating Warbler reported by Tim Baird who first witnessed two birds of this elusive species interacting during the BOS May 2005 Bird Count on the Allegany Indian Reservation in Salamanca. Baird lost sight of these birds but a single bird of this species was subsequently seen again by Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson who were attracted to its "almost constant singing". They briefly noted the warbler's buffy head, throat and breast as well as diagnostic black head stripes.

Finally, following a long hiatus in sightings, reports of small egrets in our study area are hopefully on the increase. On the morning of June 22nd, Jim Pawlicki and Bill Watson observed a Cattle Egret "mainly walking, feeding and picking flies off cows in a grassy and weedy farm field about three miles east of Rock Point Provincial Park near Dunnville, Ontario. The bird was described as about the size and shape of a Green Heron but with longer legs and neck extension. Watson opines that yet another Cattle Egret seen by him and others again near Rock Point Provincial Park on August 7th and 22nd was probably the same bird he observed last year near Dunnville, Ontario.

## Seven Bald Eaglets Banded In Genesee County

On May 12th biologists from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation banded seven eaglets on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Oak Orchard State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Genesee County. Each of two nests on Iroquois NWR had two eaglets while the nest on Oak Orchard WMA, located east of the refuge, had three, a rare occurrence. Eagles can lay one to three eggs with two being the average. The eaglets were between 3 1/2 - 5 weeks old and appeared healthy.

Bald eagles have been nesting on Iroquois NWR since 1986 – the result of a successful statewide bald eagle restoration project started in the late 1970's. In 2000 the second nest was discovered on the refuge, and the one on Oak Orchard was discovered in 2001. Statewide there are between 80-90 active bald eagle nests.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Wigeon	12	1	Buffalo	Morgante
"	19	1	Clarence	Pawlicki, Salembier
Northern Shoveler	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Hooded Merganser	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	18	4	Alfred	Brooks
Common Merganser	21	7	Sheridan	Watson
"	24	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Red-br. Merganser	4	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Ruddy Duck	4	33	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	4	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	11; 12	1; 1	Buffalo	Morgante, Hamilton; Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	2; 3; 20	99; 127; 65	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	2	22 ad, 9 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	3	206	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	7; 22	600; 510	Mohawk I., Ont	Watson
"	24	58 ad, 26 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Great Egret	1 - 30	2 max	Tonawanda	Hess
"	2	10 ad, 14 yg	Motor I.	Watson
"	3; 17	1; 2	Times Beach NP	Watson; Andrle
"	3	1	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	3; 14	1; 2	Grand I.	Lazarczyk; Lazarczyk, Pawlicki
"	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	12	1	Buffalo	Morgante
"	20; 28	10; 15 yg	Motor I.	Watson
* <u>Cattle Egret</u>	22	1	Dunnville, Ont	Watson, Pawlicki
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	7; 22	1; 7	Port Colborne, Ont	Watson, Pawlicki
Osprey	4	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	4	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	5	2 (n)	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Tillman WMA	Sharon
Bald Eagle	4	2 ad, 2 yg	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	4	2 ad, 2 yg	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	12	2 yg	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1 ad	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	20	4	Silver Creek	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	21	1 ad, 3 imm	Sheridan	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	24	1 ad, 2 yg	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Red-shouldered Hawk	5; 19	2; 1	Ward	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	12	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	28	1	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
Broad-winged Hawk	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5; 19	1; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	28	2	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	29	3	Colden	J Landau
Virginia Rail	12	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	20	3	Tifft NP	J Landau, Andrle, Bogacki
Common Moorhen	4	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	8; 12	1; 4	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Yoerg
Upland Sandpiper	7	1	Colden	J Landau
"	12	3	Tillman WMA	Yoerg
"	25	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	26; 27	4	Tillman WMA	Morgante; Pawlicki et al
Ruddy Turnstone	7L	4	Rock Point PP, Ont	Watson
Sanderling	7L	1	Rock Point PP, Ont	Watson
Least Sandpiper	22L	3	Rock Point PP, Ont	Watson, Pawlicki
White-r. Sandpiper	7	2	Rock Point PP, Ont	Watson
American Woodcock	2	1 ad, 2 yg	Tonawanda	Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	7	3	Rock Point PP, Ont	Watson
"	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk
Great Black-b. Gull	30	6	Niagara Falls NY	Watson
Caspian Tern	2 - 22	5 recs; 24 max	WNY & Ontario	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	12	1	Buffalo	Morgante
"	25	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle et al
Common Tern	3	146	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
Black Tern	4; 8	10; 4	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Hess
"	4	5	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	12	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Barred Owl	17	1	Randolph	DeSha
"	23	1	Allegany SP	Sharon
Red-headed Wdpkr.	2; 17	2; 2	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	19	1	West Seneca	Morgante, Wells, Hamilton
* Olive-s. Flycatcher	5	1	Cherry Creek	Pawlicki, Horst
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	3L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Acadian Flycatcher	5; 19	4; 1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	2	Nine Mile Creek SF	DeSha
"	18	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	28	1	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Yellow-thr. Vireo	7	1	Eden	Andrle
"	12	2	Tillman WMA	Yoerg
"	27	2 ad, 5 yg	Tillman WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
"	28	3	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
Common Raven	5 - 30	7 recs; 4 max	Allegany Co.	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	3; 25	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Watson; Andrle
"	24	40 ad, 3 yg	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	23	1	Alfred	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	1	East Aurora	Morgante
"	25	1	Elma	Morgante
Winter Wren	4	2	Sardinia	Morgante
"	5; 19	1; 1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	28	2	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
<u>Sedge Wren</u>	20	2	Somerset	Morgante
"	26	1	Tillman WMA	Morgante
"	27	2	Tillman WMA	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Golden-cr. Kinglet	17; 29	2; 1	Royalton	Pawlicki
Swainson's Thrush	2	2	Wilson	Watson, Pawlicki
"	4L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Hermit Thrush	5; 19; 26	1; 1; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	18	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Golden-wing. Warbler	11	1	Pendleton	Potter, D'Anna
Nashville Warbler	10; 20	1; 1	Andover	Brooks
"	11	1	Pendleton	Potter, D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	2	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5	1	Cherry Creek	Pawlicki, Horst
"	5; 19	4	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	28	1	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	5	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg
"	28	2 ad, 2 yg	Allegany SP	Pawlicki
Pine Warbler	4	2	Sardinia	Morgante
"	18	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
Prairie Warbler	1; 20	3; 4	Andover	Brooks
"	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	4	6	Yorkshire	Morgante
"	5	1	<u>Cherry Creek</u>	Pawlicki, Horst
"	5; 26	1; 2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson; DeSha
"	10	6	<u>Eagle</u>	Morgante
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	5L	1	Ward	Brooks
Blackpoll Warbler	5	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	6L	1	Wilson	Potter
Cerulean Warbler	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	5; 19	7; 6	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	3	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	28	8	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
Black-and-white Warb.	7; 11	1; 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	28	10	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
Prothonotary Warbler	8; 12	1; 4	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Yoerg
<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	19	1	Allegany Ind Res	Yoerg
Northern Waterthrush	8; 12	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Yoerg
La. Waterthrush	5; 17	1; 1	Royalton	Watson et al
"	19	3	Allegany Ind Res	Yoerg, Henderson
Mourning Warbler	5 - 30	10 recs; 2 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Canada Warbler	11; 12	4; 3	Alfred	Brooks
"	19	1	Ward	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19	1	Allegany Ind Res	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	2	Allegany Ind Res	Pawlicki, Salembier, Baird
Yellow-br. Chat	2; 13	1; 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna; Potter
"	10	1	Eagle	Morgante
"	12 - 26	1	Tillman WMA	Yoerg et al
<u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	2	1	Wilson	Watson, Pawlicki
"	4	2	Yorkshire	Morgante
"	5; 18; 22	1; 1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna
Vesper Sparrow	2	1	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	4; 7; 9	1; 1; 2	Andover	Brooks
"	5	1	Royalton	Watson
"	10	1	Eagle	Morgante
"	11	1	Pendleton	Potter, D'Anna
"	12; 27	4; 6	Tillman WMA	Yoerg; Watson
"	19	3	Clarence	Pawlicki et al
"	19	1	Lancaster	Pawlicki
"	20	3	Somerset	Morgante
Orchard Oriole	12	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	2	Somerset	Morgante
"	20; 29	1; 1	Wilson	Potter; D'Anna
"	27	2 ad, n(yg)	Rock Point PP, Ont	Pawlicki, Watson
Pine Siskin	14 - 18	1	Eden (f)	Andrle

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**256**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**002**

**Total for the year 2005:**

**258**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## Whip-poor-will Outing: June 10, 2005 by Bill Burch

This 15th annual outing began with a 7 p.m. dinner at the Lotus Garden in Port Colborne, Ontario. Present were 14 BOS members and guests, and 12 from the Bert Miller Nature Club of Stevensville, Ontario. We greeted long-time birder Helen Sherk, whose name is associated with Sherkston Beach and other landmarks in the area.

After lingering over dinner we had to skip the Minor Road meadows (missing three or four field birds) and go directly to Wilson Road. We were a little early and this may have helped the tally along the mile of that road. Lynne Landon's list (mostly heard) is admirable: Alder and Willow Flycatcher, Veery, Wood Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Robin, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song and Swamp Sparrow, Catbird, Black-billed Cuckoo (4), Mourning Dove, Woodcock, Tree Swallows, Chimney Swifts (at Lotus Garden) and finally a Little Brown Bat.

The warm night brought out fireflies in great numbers so we could see ten at a time in the weeds across the road as we stood and waited for the calling to begin. The first calls were a series of impressively loud ones coming at 9:15 p.m. from a Whip-poor-Will west of us. The calls went unanswered, but we could hear others calling from deep in the Wainfleet Bog to the east. At 9:45, after many of our group had departed, the bog nearby began to resound with loud calling. The speculation was whether it was six, nine or eleven Whip-poor-wills calling at one time. It was like the finale of a fireworks display and it quickly died down. Only distant calls remained as we left at 10 p.m.

Our Canadian birding friend, Bob Chambers, who is recovering from a spinal tumor operation, was present. He can now move with the aid of a walker. He and his wife, who does the driving, remained in their minivan.

## An Early Field Sparrow Fledgling

by Bill Watson

On June 17, 2005, while Atlasing block 2078D I found a begging fledgling Field Sparrow in a four foot high Cottonwood about 15 or 20 yards west of Arnold Road and 150 yards north of Royalton Center Road in the Town of Royalton. June 17<sup>th</sup> date ties the early fledgling date in "The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State" and establishes an early fledgling record for the BOS study area.

The bird was at a minimum distance of about 15 yards and viewed with 10x40 Zeiss binoculars. It had the size and shape of an adult Field Sparrow, a high short grayish pink triangular bill, a brownish dark cap, brownish gray face, light thin eye ring, light throat, light gray breast, and a belly that was had gray streaks that were best seen on the breast. The back, dorsal wings, and tail were dark brown, and the legs and feet were a dirty bubble gum pink.

The fledgling Field Sparrow was continuously begging during the entire study period of about ten or fifteen minutes. At the same time two competing adult Field Sparrows were singing. During this time the fledgling was not observed being fed, although it did fly to another tiny Cottonwood about ten feet to the south.

Fledgling Field Sparrows are poorly documented in both the Buffalo Ornithological Society territory and in New York State. "A nest with four eggs was found near St. Catharines, Ontario, on May 13, 1962 (Dorst *et. al.*)" (Beardlee and Mitchell 1965). Even if we assume the maximum incubation period of thirteen days and the nestling period of twelve days these Field Sparrows should have fledged by May 28<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the data gathered in Atlas 2000 will be incorporated into the revision of *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* and we will soon have a more realistic dates for eggs, nestlings, and fledglings for the 189 species and two named hybrids that breed in the BOS study area.

## Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Treasurer's Report 2003-2004

By Tom O'Donnell

Checking account - opening balance	\$ 7,557.46**
**Distributed:	
General Fund	\$ 6,746.62
(General Operating Exp.)	\$ 3,254.90
(Peregrine Project)	\$ 94.20
(2004 Banquet)	\$ 1,200.00
(Map Project)	\$ 181.70
(M.L. Emerson Bequest)	\$ 2,015.82
Prothonotary Fund	\$ 785.84
Donation: Art Schaffner	\$ 25.00
Income:	
Dues: General Fund	\$ 1075.00
Prothonotary Fund	\$ 2775.00
Donations	\$ 616.00
Checking Account Interest	\$ 12.58
Seasonal Checklist Sales	\$ 78.00
Date Guide Sales	\$ 24.00
Name Tag Sales	\$ 12.00
Bank Fee Reimbursement	\$ 10.00
Axtell/McVey/Wendling Donations	\$ 47.00
Transfer from Inv. Acct. for Special Projects	\$ 2086.00
Total Income	\$ 6,735.58
Expense:	
Prothonotary Expenses:	
Annual Bulk Mail Permit	\$ 150.00
Bulk Postage Acct.	\$ 360.00
Printing 9/03-8/04	\$ 2056.70
Postage & Supplies	\$ 212.54
Subtotal	\$ 2,779.24
Membership Committee	\$ 34.90
Grand Island Property Tax	\$ 155.38
Statistician Expenses	\$ 65.01
April Count Expenses	\$ 29.63
October Count Expenses	\$ 60.94
Treasurer Expenses	\$ 78.60
Speaker Honorarium	\$ 50.00
Bank Service Charges	\$ 26.00
NYS Ornithological Society Dues	\$ 30.00
Museum of Science Donation Meeting Room	\$ 300.00
Name Tag Expense	\$ 13.70
Peregrine Project Expense	\$ 94.20
Subtotal General Fund	\$ 938.36
Special Project Fund Grants	\$ 2086.00
Transfer A/M/W donations to Inv. Acct.	\$ 47.00
Total Expenses	\$ 5,850.60
Transfer of \$300.00 to 2004 Banquet	
Checking account - closing balance	\$ 8,442.44**
**Distributed:	
General Fund	\$ 7,635.84
(General Operating Exp.)	\$ 3,938.32
(2004 Banquet)	\$ 1,500.00
(Map Project)	\$ 181.70
(M.L. Emerson Bequest)	\$ 2,015.82
Prothonotary Fund	\$ 781.60
Donation: Art Schaffner	\$ 25.00
Axtell/McVey/Wendling Fund value as of 10/12/04	\$ 44,169.63

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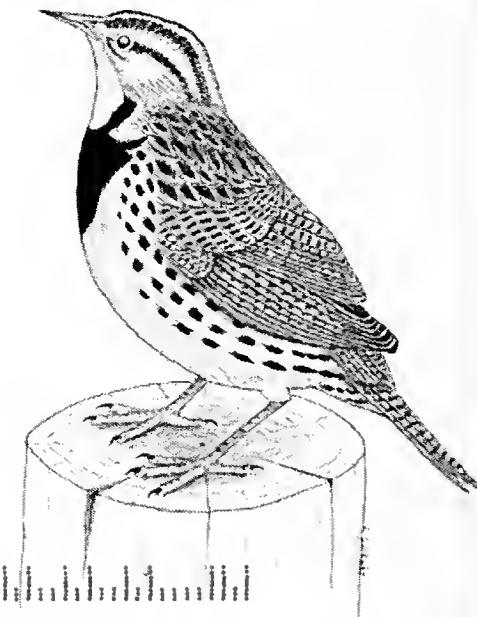
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### BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

### September – October Calendar

- September 11: Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach** for warbler and shorebirds. Leader: Bill Bogacki (674-5781). Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.
- September 14: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM at Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories and/or slides on a carousel to share with the other members.
- September 28: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Michael Hamilton will present the results of the 2005 Annual Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count focusing on species abundance changes from 1935 to the present. Dr. Robert DeLeon will interpret the result of the 2005 Annual BOS May Count in comparison with the 7 years of data in the Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count data base.
- October 9: BOS Annual October Count.** As the counts are among the most important things we do and generate extremely valuable data available to anyone with interest in the health and status of the birds in our area, all BOS members are encouraged, actually expected, to participate. To do so, please contact: Mike Hamilton at 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com.
- October 12: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room, Buffalo Museum of Science. Tim Baird, past President of the New York State Ornithological Association, will present A Year with Nature in Western New York, a 42 minute slide presentation with music and audience interaction.
- October 26: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Irons, 1995-2004 president of the Ontario Field Ornithologist, will discuss the Carden Alvar, a globally rare grassland habitat located northeast of Toronto. This informative and entertaining presentation features wildflowers, butterflies, and grassland birds.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

182

Volume 71, No. 8 August, 2005

### THE MONTH: July

by Mike Zebehazy

Summer heat and humidity continued to bake Western New York for July 2005. The month was consistently warm and humid and seasonably sunny with very little rain following the pattern of last month. This was the warmest July in 50 years with an average temperature of 75 °F and the warmest June-July ever. 25 days were in the 80's, 12 days were at least 86 and four consecutive days in the 90's included two record highs on the 13th and 14th. Nights were especially warm with 11 nights in the 70's including an eight day stretch from the 12th to the 19th, the longest ever in records at the airport.

Rainfall was relatively sparse during the month and was highly variable across the area. Only a few scattered thunderstorms occurred with one general beneficial rain on the 27th. The rainfall total of 1.82 inches was well below normal at the airport and continued the relatively dry year so far with annual shortfall of over four inches. Sunshine totaled 65% of the possible, close to the normal of 67%.

The month began with a normal first week that included a very warm and humid holiday. Conditions soon turned steamy, though, with intense heat and humidity prevailing during the second week. Isolated thunderstorms brought local flooding to portions of north Buffalo and Kenmore late on the 13th. The heat eased only slightly during the third week before a sharp cold front finally brought relief during the last few days of the month with seasonably warm but less humid conditions. The front brought widespread severe weather south of Buffalo late on the 26th and a general rain on the 27th.

The Fall shorebird migration increased dramatically with sixteen shorebird species noted this month.

On July 6th Bill Watson spotted an early Whimbrel at Rock Point PP in Dunnville, ON with a number of more

common shorebirds. On the 17th another of this species was observed by Peter Yoerg at the Canal Road sod farms in Dunnville.

On July 19, while engaging in Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas work Kayo Roy and Brian Ahara discovered a rare American Avocet at the Kraft Foods Sewage Ponds (formerly known as the St. David's Sewage Ponds) in St. David's, ON. Roy noted that this location is a legendary area where numerous provincial rarities have been recorded. This fenced and gated sewage pond is out of bounds to visitors but the Avocet could easily be seen from the gate area as it fed in the east pond. Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki found the bird at the same location on July 20 but it was no longer present on July 21.

On July 28, Dean DiTommaso and others found a White-rumped Sandpiper in the company of Semipalmated Sandpipers. According to DiTommaso, the bird was somewhat larger and with longer primary extension that went well beyond the end of the tail while the many Semipalmateds had an obviously shorter wing profile with the primaries extending to but not past the end of the tail. Although the characteristic white band across the upper tail was not seen, DiTommaso notes that this species can be separated from similar species by size and shape. Semipalmated and



Long-tailed Ducks photographed by Willie D'Anna on July 28<sup>th</sup> at Rock Point Provincial Park, Ontario.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

**Society Officers:**

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by Tom Salo of Region 4, "The first fully documented nesting by *Falco columbarius* in New York occurred on the shore of Spitfire Lake, Franklin County in 1992. In less than ten years, breeding "bullet birds" spread to four Federation reporting regions and seven counties in the northern part of the state. The extent of this expansion is now being documented by Atlas 2000. During 2000-2001, Merlins were found in 36 blocks with nesting confirmed in 17."

Now, Western New York has reports of two successful nestings. Mike Morgante reported two birds in the Elmwood Avenue neighborhoods between West Ferry and Bidwell Parkway. These are birds likely involved with the successful nesting in this vicinity. A Dial-a-bird report noted that on July 15, 3 Merlins fledged from the nest on private property on the west side of Buffalo (photos are posted on the Genesee Birds listserv and in *The Prothonotary*, vol 71, no 6).

Initially this was thought to be the first breeding record ever for Merlin in the Niagara Frontier. Tim Baird reported another nesting pair in Salamanca and included the following anecdote. Ms. Connie Bierfelt of Salamanca found a

Western Sandpipers are smaller, have a shorter wing profile and have partial webbing between the toes, a feature lacking in White-rumped Sandpipers (as is clearly visible in the photos that accompanied the report). Baird's Sandpiper is similar in size and shape but is browner, lacks flank markings, and has a bill that is usually somewhat less drooped and thinner at the tip.

The number of Great Egrets in the area continued to increase with Watson noting 22 from the Route 77 overlook at the Tonawanda WMA on July 16 and observing an amazing 41 on July 19 as they were flushed by DEC workers on Motor Island in the Niagara River.

Merlins have been big news this month. This falcon species has been reported more and more regularly locally and there are very few reports of breeding birds outside of the Adirondacks. According to an early Atlas 2000 report

down-covered bird of prey sitting in her backyard on Broad Street in Salamanca, NY in late June of 2005. The bird was taken to Dr. Seleen at the Jamestown Veterinary Hospital on June 25, 2005. Ms. Bierfelt thought it was an American Kestrel that was from a nest in a Norway Spruce behind her house. Dr. Seleen kept the bird and raised it. When it feathered out he realized that it was not a Kestrel and informed Ms. Bierfelt that it was a Merlin. She subsequently informed me. I visited the nest area on July 28, 2005. There was no activity in the supposed nest tree, but birds were heard calling nearby. She said the birds have been here since April and have been very vocal in her back yard. (Interestingly, she also said they were present last year. I did not see a nest in the tree she thought [they were in], but there was a nest in a tree about 50 feet away. By July 28, the other young had apparently fledged. The birds were seen in the immediate area by me on the 28th (one) and 29th (two). One bird on the 29th perched in the tree where Ms Bierfelt thought they nested. One of the birds that I observed on 29 July (near the nest site) was calling frequently. I believe this might have been a fledged young. The other bird seen on that date sat preening in the top of a dead tree and was seen in strong flight; this possibly was an adult (female?). Baird included a photo of the bird raised by Dr. Seleen.

Continuing the Merlin theme, Peter Yoerg noted their return, for at least the eighth consecutive year, at the University of Buffalo Main Street campus, "Merlinville".

Peregrine Falcons are now regular sights in downtown Buffalo; over Lafayette Square, the ballpark, and the Liberty and Statler Buildings. Unlike Peregrine Falcons, the advance of the Merlin, once known only as a rare migrant, has occurred without direct assistance from breeding or relocation programs.

Finally, on a more casual note, on July 9 Mike Morgante made this report about a promising location in the southern tier: I biked the full length of the new McGee trail (rails-to-trails) from Cattaraugus through Little Valley to Salamanca (~12 miles one way) this morning with Steve Taylor. Steve is keeping a list of birds identified from the trail. About one mile from the start of the trail in town of Cattaraugus, we heard Black-throated Blue Warbler and Winter Wren singing while watching some very agitated Mourning Warblers along the trail. The trail passes some emergent marsh and wet grassy areas just west of Little Valley that held numerous Swamp Sparrows and Red-winged Blackbirds. The tall wet grasses reminded me of the habitat the Sedge Wrens took up for residence at Tillman WMA. Just east/south of Little Valley, a pond with a lot of exposed shoreline/mud held a Solitary Sandpiper. Little Valley Creek, which runs along the trail for much of the distance between Little Valley and Salamanca was "completely dry" in most sections. Steve couldn't believe this turnabout as he watched a family of 7 Common Mergansers here in stream full conditions only 3 weeks ago. There were 2 singing Carolina Wrens near the end of the trail in Salamanca.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s). (nestlg) Indicate nestling(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	15	10	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	8	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Hamilton et al
American Wigeon	23	4	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Redhead	4	4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Long-tailed Duck	<u>28</u>	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	<u>31</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	DiTommaso
Common Goldeneye	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Common Merganser	15	11	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	17	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Hamilton et al
Red-br. Merganser	6	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	16	72	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Loon	28	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	31	1 imm	Allegany SP	Baird
D.-crested Cormorant	5 - 23	8 recs; 308 max	Niagara River	Watson
"	6; 31	700; 1100	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson
* Least Bittern	16	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
"	17; 23	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
Great Egret	2; 4; 31	2; 2; 4	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	8; 19	3 ad, 20 nestlg; 41	Motor I.	Watson
"	15	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	22	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16 - 20	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	29	3	Tifft NP	Andrle
"	29	1	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	10	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	15; 31	1; 1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
"	31	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Osprey	2; 4	3 (n)	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	3 - 8	1 ad, 1 n	Allegany Reservoir	Hess
"	3 - 8	2 ad, 2 n	Allegany SP	Hess
"	8	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Damato
"	16	2 ad, 3 nestlg	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16	1 ad, 2 nestlg	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	31	3 (n)	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Bald Eagle	2	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	2 - 14	1 nestlg	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson et al
"	2; 31	1 ad, 1 imm	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1 imm	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
"	13	1 imm	Lackawanna	DiTommaso

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16	1 nstlg	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	1	Hanover	Moshers
Merlin	<u>28; 29</u>	1; 2	Salamanca	Baird
"	<u>29</u>	3	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	<u>30</u>	2	Buffalo	Morgante
Peregrine Falcon	25; 28	2; 2	Buffalo	Morgante
Virginia Rail	2; 4	30; 7	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Common Moorhen	2; 4	4; 9	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	16	1 ad, 6 yg	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	24F	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalmated Plover	15F	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
"	17	1	West Lincoln (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* American Avocet	19; 20	1	St. David's (Ont)	Roy; Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	16; 17	2; 4	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	17; 24	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Yellowlegs	2; 4	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	6	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	6; 15	8; 8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	16	18	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	9F	1	Little Valley	Morgante
"	15	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16; 31	2; 9	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Yoerg et al
"	16; 17; 31	3; 1; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, D'Anna et al
Whimbrel	<u>6F</u>	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	17	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruddy Turnstone	28F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	31	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Hamilton et al
"	31	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Sanderling	17F	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17F; 24	5; 15	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	15F	2	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15; 31	10; 50	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Watson, Hamilton et al
"	17	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	17; 24	10; 1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17; 24	20; 40	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	375	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Least Sandpiper	2F; 4; 10	1; 5; 5	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; D'Anna, Potter
"	5	5	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	6	12	Long Point CA (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	6; 15	13; 46	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	16	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	17; 24	40; 1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17; 24	20; 20	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-r. Sandpiper	<u>28F</u>	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	DiTommaso, D'Anna et al
Baird's Sandpiper	31F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Hamilton et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	6F; 15	1; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
* Stilt Sandpiper	16F	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	17; 20	1; 4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; DiTommaso
"	24	3	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	31	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Short-b. Dowitcher	6F	1	Morgan's Point (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	16	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	17	16	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	17	5	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	20	43	Rock Point PP (Ont)	DiTommaso
Caspian Tern	6	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	7 ad, 3 imm	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	17	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	29	1	Tifft NP	Andrle
"	29	3	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
"	31	14	Dunkirk Harbor	DiTommaso
Black Tern	2; 4	2; 15	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	16	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	16	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
* Whip-poor-will	24	3	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4; 10	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Common Raven	7	2	Allegany SP	Hess
"	7	2	Andover	Brooks
"	9; 17	2; 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	10	2	Ward	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	1	40, 45 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	2	14, 35 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	10	3 ad, 2 yg	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	14	2, 28 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	9	2	Salamanca	Morgante
"	10	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	23	1	Eden	Andrle
"	23	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
Winter Wren	3 - 8	5	Allegany SP	Hess
"	9	1	Cattaraugus	Morgante
"	18	1	Salamanca	Baird
<u>Sedge Wren</u>	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Chilton
"	21	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Chilton
Swainson's Thrush	7	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Hermit Thrush	29	1	Alfred	Brooks
Nashville Warbler	3 - 8	2	Allegany SP	Hess
"	11	1	Andover	Brooks
Pine Warbler	10	1	Erie County Forest	Yoerg, Henderson
Prairie Warbler	2; 7; 17	2; 2; 2	Andover	Brooks
"	10	6	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
Cerulean Warbler	3 - 8	2	Allegany SP	Hess
"	18	3	Salamanca	Baird
Black-and-white Warb.	4	1	Almond	Brooks
"	18	2	Salamanca	Baird
La. Waterthrush	3 - 8	3	Allegany SP	Hess
Canada Warbler	12	1	Pomfret	Mosher et al
"	18	2	Salamanca	Baird
Vesper Sparrow	2	1	Cambria	Andrle et al
"	10	2	Ashford	Yoerg, Henderson
Grasshopper Sparrow	7 - 20	4 recs;3 max	Andover	Brooks
* Henslow's Sparrow	4	1	Lancaster	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Orchard Oriole	16	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Red Crossbill	10	1	Ward	Brooks
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:</b>				
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:</b>				
<b>Total for the year 2005:</b>				

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

#### ACTUAL & PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR THE YEARS 2003 - 2006 FOR THE BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following is the budget and actual for the BOS fiscal year 2003-2004 and the proposed budgets for 2004-2005 and 2006. The 2004-2005 budget is for 15 months due to the transition to a fiscal year ending on 12/31. 2006 will be the first year with the BOS on a calendar year. Although the Society must vote on the 2004-2005 budget **only**, it is helpful to anticipate future needs and/or the spreading of expenses over more than one year. To this end the 2006 preliminary budget is included as a guide only and will need to be revised and voted on next year.

#### INCOME:

	<b>2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	
	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>P. Budget</b>	<b>P. Budget</b>
Opening Balance:	4316.64	4316.64	4901.62	2375.69
2003-2004 Dues:	3800.00	3850.00	3800.00	3800.00
Date Guide Sales	0.00	24.00	0.00	0.00
Special Membership Premiums	500.00	616.00	500.00	500.00
Misc. Income	20.00	34.58	20.00	20.00
Seasonal Checklist Sales	150.00	78.00	50.00	50.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>8786.64</b>	<b>8919.22</b>	<b>9271.62</b>	<b>6745.69</b>

#### EXPENSE:

General operating expenses	1000.00	888.36	1250.00	1000.00
Contributions	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Speakers Fund (reimbursable expense for travel, lodging)	100.00	50.00	100.00	100.00
Vaughn Lecture Series (support)	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Prothonotary	3000.00	2779.24	3750.00	3000.00
Meeting Room contribution to Science Museum	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
2009 Banquet Fund (reserved)	1500.00	**	345.93	645.93
R. Exp. for Delegates to An'1 Meeting of NYS Ornithological Soc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Young People's Weekend	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
BOS Graphics Coordination and Update	300.00	0.00	300.00	0.00
Section Map Project	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
BOS Seasonal Checklist	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Beardslee & Mitchell update (support for reimbursable expense)	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
<b>Total expense:</b>	<b>7000.00</b>	<b>4017.60</b>	<b>6895.93</b>	<b>5495.93</b>
<b>Ending bank balance (general operating contingency):</b>	<b>1786.64</b>	<b>4901.62</b>	<b>2375.69</b>	<b>1249.76</b>

*Submitted by the Budget Committee: Thomas O'Donnell, Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker, Gerry Rising, Mike Hamilton  
2/9/05 Adopted at 2/9/05 meeting.*

\*\*2004 Banquet: Income \$1,298.00; Expense \$2,452.07; Reserve \$1,500.00 = Remaining Balance \$345.93

# Strawberry Island Bald Eagles

by Bill Watson

On February 6, 2004, I counted six Bald Eagles on Strawberry Island in the Niagara River. While this year on February 7, 2005 (12:20-12:40 PM EST) I found only two Bald Eagles at this location. Even more surprising was the observation of one Bald Eagle carrying a stick and later, a pair's half-hearted attempt at copulation.

Was this a pair of eagles attempting to establish a breeding territory? Were Bald Eagles going to return as breeders to the Niagara River after a 59 year absence?

"The Niagara Frontier in the early part of the nineteenth century was a favored haunt of the eagle. Especially was this true of the immediate vicinity of the Falls. Before the building of the bridge connecting Goat Island with the mainland, the birds nested on the island, but have not done so since that time. However, Alexander Wilson, who visited the region shortly thereafter stated in explanation of the picture in his book: 'In the background is seen a distant view of the celebrated cataract of Niagara, a noted place of resort for these birds, as well on account of the fish procured there, as for the numerous carcasses of squirrels, deer, bear, and various other animals, that, in their attempts to cross the river, above the falls, have been dragged into the current, and precipitated down that tremendous gulf; where among the rocks that bound the rapids below, they furnished a rich repast for the Vulture, the Raven, and the Bald eagle...' " In describing nesting locations it is stated in reference to the Niagara River: "...a nest on Navy Island, Ontario, which was in use in 1946, and which we believe contained eggs on March 16 when an adult sat closely and apparently turned eggs..." (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965).

February 9 (9:35-10:00 AM): Only one eagle was on Strawberry Island and it left at 9:40.

February 10 (12:16-12:40 PM): At 12:19, 12:31, and 12:35 the smaller male was circling the cormorant colony trees carrying various sticks between three and five feet in length in its talons; however, the female ignored his attempts to entice her to start building a nest, and sat on a branch in the southern part of the cormorant colony, and other than turning her head she was motionless the entire study period.

February 12 (12:15-12:55 PM): Both Bald Eagles were carrying sticks as they circled the trees of the island. After the female landed in the tree her stick fell to the ground. At 12:30 an eagle was carrying a stick that was estimated to be at least twelve feet long that also fell to the ground. The male again brought sticks to northern most tree in the cormorant colony at 12:34 and 12:46, the last stick he carefully arranged on an old cormorant nest with his bill.

February 15 (11:28-11:50 AM): The two birds simply sat in the trees with no activity.

February 17 (2:52-3:15 PM): The eagles were in southern part of the southern most tree with little activity other than preening of the female.

February 21 (10:32-11:30 AM): Only the female was observed in the tree south of the cormorant colony for the entire study period. A King Eider feeding between the island and me was an unexpected bonus!

February 23 (9:03-9:34 AM): An eagle landed in the trees at 9:21 and was still there at the end of the observation.

February 24 (8:58-10:00 AM): There was a bonanza of stick carrying activity with the male carry sticks on seven occasions and even left two of them at the same location. The female carrying sticks on three occasions, but then she indulged in a bizarre behavior. She would remove large sticks about ten or twelve feet long from their location near the top of the tree and slowly hover down to the ground with them! Was she building a nest on the ground? Or was she of the opinion that Strawberry Island was not a preferred nest site? If this was the case, Peter Nye (NYS-DEC) and I shared her concern. Bald Eagles are sensitive to human disturbance. The Sheridan Drive boat launch is only .7 miles from Strawberry Island, as is Buffalo, while Tonawanda is less than 0.5 miles to the east. Strawberry Island shallows are a very popular fishing area, and picnickers and recreational boaters also frequent the island.

During March the nest was studied on nine days for a total of 193 minutes. On March 3 (10:15-10:50 AM) a Bald Eagle flew over Strawberry Island at 10:20 and again at 10:40. On March 9 (11:02-11:40 AM) an eagle sat in one of the trees from 11:30-11:40, while on March 24 (6:45-6:50 PM) a roosting bird was observed. No eagles were observed on March 5, 16, 23, 27, 30, and 31.

Curiously, on the morning of February 20 Peter Yoerg found a nest on Navy Island and two adult Bald Eagles. He observed the male bringing a thin stick about five feet long to the nest, while the female was perched near the nest trying to break off a branch with her bill. He also observed the male bringing to the nest what appeared to be nesting material (Yoerg, 2005). It is possible that the Strawberry Island and Navy Island eagles were the same pair, and the observed behavior at Strawberry Island was simply exuberant stick carrying behavior at a foraging-roosting site.

In conclusion, on February 10, 12, and 24, Bald Eagles were observed carrying sticks on 16 occasions. Generally the male was a very active participant carrying sticks 11 times, while the female was passive and only observed carrying sticks four times (two of these times she was dismantling the foundation of the nest and twice she was bringing sticks into the trees). She would often sit still in the tree as the male circled with sticks. After she dismantled the nest foundation by removing two large twelve-foot long sticks and hovering down to the ground with them, stick carrying behavior ceased.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank Mitchell and Marjorie Harwitz for sharing their observations between 12:00 and 12:30 on March 5<sup>th</sup> and Jerry Lazarczyk for assisting with observations.

Literature Cited: Beardslee, C. S. and Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

Yoerg, P. 2005. Personal Communications.

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### October – November Calendar

- October 22: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna (731-4348 or dannapotter@wzrd.com ). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.
- October 26: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Irons, 1995-2004 president of the Ontario Field Ornithologist, will discuss the **Carden Alvar**, a globally rare grassland habitat located northeast of Toronto. This informative and entertaining presentation features wildflowers, butterflies, and grassland birds.
- November 9: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Marty Schlabach and David Carson of Cornell University will present **Of Birds and Poetry: Alexander Wilson's 1804 Expedition to Niagara Falls** with power point and slides.
- November 20: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester GOS**, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Since this trip will mostly be in Canada, it is suggested that you bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Non-citizens should bring passports. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com) and GOS Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 71, No. 9 September, 2005

### THE MONTH: August

by Jerry Lazarczyk

The summer of 2004 was one of the coolest and cloudiest ever recorded in WNY and the Northeast while the summer of 2005 was one of the hottest. This summer will also be remembered for the number and strength of hurricanes.

August was warm and wet. Summer heat and humidity continued for the first part of the month with temperatures above 80 °F for all but two of the first 21 days. The last half of the month featured moderate summer conditions except for record rainfall from the remains of Hurricane Katrina on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The average temperature of 72.8 °F made it the ninth warmest on record. Temperatures were above normal on 26 of the 31 days: 21 days saw temperatures in the 80s, 9 of which reached at least 85 °F with 1 90 degree reading on the 4<sup>th</sup>. The month started uncomfortable with minimum temperatures from the mid-60s to low 70s for 12 of the first 14 days.

A thunderstorm brought some relief from dry conditions on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The next significant rain came with thunderstorms on the 12<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup>. The month finished with the remains of Katrina bringing 3 inches of rain during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. This brought flooding to streets and poorly drained areas, but area creeks remained within their banks. The month totaled 5.92 inches of rain, the 8<sup>th</sup> wettest on record and the wettest since 1979.

Sunshine totaled 63% of total possible for the month. The Lake Erie temperature remained above normal and did not fall to 75°F until the 18<sup>th</sup>. Overall, it was another great month for pools, beaches and air conditioners.

A Piping Plover seen first by Jim Pawlicki then Bill Watson at Rock Point Provincial Park on

August 18<sup>th</sup> was exceptional: only 11 have been previously recorded. Historic records indicate that this species nested on the northern shore of Lake Erie until 1939, since

then excluded by human activity.

An exceptional 4 Merlins at the South UB Campus and 1 at Dunnville, Ontario, highlighted the month. This species nested in Buffalo during 2005 (see *Prothonotary* 71, issues 6 and 8). Recent records have no June sightings and only 1 sighting in July and 8 in August. Historic records considered the Pigeon Hawk, (the Merlin's former name) rare in WNY and very exceptional outside migration. However, a report of a nest was noted in 1939.

An Eared Grebe reported by Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on August 15<sup>th</sup> is also exceptional. Other than a single record from July 1980 at Erie Beach, all other records for the past 8 years are from that treatment area. Beardsley and Mitchell consider the species "irregular very rare" dating from the first record on Nov. 14, 1948. The first preserved specimen which presumably met its death by falling over the Falls was collected Feb. 6, 1950 below the Falls.

The very rare for early August Peregrine Falcon sightings were made in Buffalo by Brendan Klick and at Oak Orchard by Willie D'Anna. These continue to document



Wilson's Phalarope photographed by Willie D'Anna on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Goose Pond, Oak Orchard WMA.

81

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Please mail correspondence to: Jack Skalicky 178 N Main, Suite K55 Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075 [Email] <a href="mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu">skalicky@biochem.utah.edu</a>	
Ed. Consultants:	Robert Andrle Gerry Rising William Watson Audrey Horbett Eileen Hull
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August records between 1965 and 2003 for Western Sandpiper, it is still considered a rare visitor to our region. Brendan Klick saw 1 on August 14 at Woodlawn Beach and Dean DiTommaso possibly the same bird there on August 22. Both were juveniles and were distinguished from Semi-palmated Sandpipers by their red scapulars among other characteristics.

I thank Bill Watson, Bob Andrle and David Suggs (BOS Noteworthy Records Database custodian) for help in preparing this article. Recent records are taken from that database and historic records from Beardsley and Mitchell.

the recovery trend of the species since the days of widespread DDT use. Historic records document sightings near Letchworth Park and throughout WNY.

A rare August Pine Warbler was first reported by Jim Pawlicki then Bill Watson from Palmer Pond State Forest. Mike Morgante also found 2 Pine Warblers in Birdsong Park in Orchard Park. Recent records include only 4 verified August sightings while August historic records have only 1 report of this rare breeder in the BOS region.

Several Long-tailed Ducks were recorded from Rock Point Provincial Park on Mike Hamilton's Field Trip. They also saw a Whimbrel on the east side of Morgan Point. Susan O'Donnell reported another Whimbrel from Iroquois. The *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds* lists Whimbrel as rare in August.

Although there are 43

## Marty Schlabach and David Corson to Lecture on Alexander Wilson

By William Watson

Marty Schlabach and David Corson of Cornell University will present, "Of Birds and Poetry: Alexander Wilson's 1804 Expedition to Niagara Falls" at the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:30 pm on November 9.

Although birders may be familiar with the name Wilson, from the names Wilson's Storm-petrel, Wilson's Plover, Wilson's Phalarope, Wilson's Snipe, and Wilson's Warbler, few know the achievements of this American ornithologist.

Alexander Wilson was born in Paisley, Scotland, in 1766. When he was 28 he immigrated to Philadelphia, where he met the naturalist William Bartram, who encouraged him to write a book about the birds of North America. Between 1808 and 1813 he wrote the first eight volumes of his *American Ornithology*, a monumental work which influenced ornithologists in both America and Europe, including John James Audubon.

It is the trip to Niagara Falls from Philadelphia that will be the focus of this lecture. The speakers have noted: "Although most commonly known today as 'the Father of American Ornithology', Alexander Wilson was also an indefatigable traveler and poet. In the late fall of 1804 he traveled, by foot and then by boat, from Philadelphia to Niagara Falls. Walking from Philadelphia, he passed through the Finger Lakes, and then, by storm-tossed boat, crossed Lake Ontario to Fort Niagara, and thence to "the thundering tumult" that was his destination. Wilson subsequently described his mighty adventures, his vivid impressions of the landscape, and the flora and fauna observed, in an epic poem entitled, *The Foresters*. On the 201st anniversary of this remarkable journey, we will use Wilson's art and his poetry as the basis for exploring both his contributions as an ornithologist and his historic visit to western New York."

David Corson is currently the Curator of History of Science Collections, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at the Cornell University Library. Martin Schlabach is the director of the Comstock Library of Entomology on the Ithaca campus of Cornell University and also the Frank A. Lee Library at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, New York.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	23; 31	6; 6	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Blue-winged Teal	14; 15	4; 4	Oak Orchard WMA	Klick; Watson
Northern Shoveler	15	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Pintail	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Green-winged Teal	6	1	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	15	9	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Long-tailed Duck	6	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	<u>14; 22</u>	2; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	<u>18; 28</u>	3; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson (BOS)
Hooded Merganser	14	1	Times Beach NP	Klick
Common Merganser	6	8	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	6	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	13	18	Niagara Falls	Klick
"	28	16	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Red-br. Merganser	6	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	21	1	Mohawk Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	12	1	Tonawanda WMA	T O'Donnell
"	15	95	Batavia WWTP	Watson
* <u>Eared Grebe</u>	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
D.-crested Cormorant	15	44	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	<u>18; 28</u>	337; 220	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
"	23	681	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	28	350	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
American Bittern	14	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Great Egret	14	47	Iroquois wetlands complex	Klick
"	15	5	Times Beach	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	2	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna, Yoerg
"	25	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
Green Heron	9	14	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Black-cr. Night-Heron	25	11	Tifft NP	Watson
Osprey	3	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	<u>8 - 16</u>	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	18	1	Times Beach NP	Andrlie
"	24	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson et al
"	28	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	31	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Bald Eagle	28	1	Bliss	Junkin
Red-shouldered Hawk	25	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	28	1	Bliss	Junkin
Broad-winged Hawk	2; 12	1; 1	Alfred	Brooks

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	11	1	Palmer Pond SF	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	1	Phillips Creek SF	Pawlicki, Watson
"	22	1 (juv)	Iroquois NWR	M Coniglio
Merlin	<u>2 - 25</u>	7 recs; 4 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	<u>29</u>	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
Peregrine Falcon	<u>15</u>	3	Buffalo	Klick
"	<u>20; 28</u>	1 imm; 1 imm	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	22	1	Grand I.	S O'Donnell
Virginia Rail	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
Black-bellied Plover	6; 18	10; 54	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO); Watson
"	28	80	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
"	28	14	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	<u>14 - 31</u>	10 other recs	WNY and Ont.	Several observers
* Amer. Golden-Plover	28F	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
"	29	6	Dunnville (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
"	31	13	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	3	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Semipalmated Plover	14; 18	15; 24	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	15	16	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	<u>7 - 29</u>	6 other recs	WNY and Ont.	Several observers
* <u>Piping Plover</u>	18F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Greater Yellowlegs	14	2	Iroquois NWR	Klick
"	15	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	21	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
"	28	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson
"	31	10	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Lesser Yellowlegs	15	40	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	18; 29	36; 8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Rew,K&J Landau
Solitary Sandpiper	7; 20	8; 10	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	4	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	20	3; 4	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
* Willet	14F	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Klick
Whimbrel	6	1	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	S O'Donnell
"	28	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Turnstone	14	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14; 22	3; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; Yoerg
"	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18; 29	7; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Rew, K&J Landau
Red Knot	14F; 22	1; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; Yoerg
"	18; 29	1; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Rew, K&J Landau
"	28	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	31	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Sanderling	14;16;31	17; 6; 40	Woodlawn Beach SP	Klick;Morgante;Morgante
"	14; 22	8; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; Yoerg
"	28	6	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson
"	29	11	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
"	31	31	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Gula
Semipalm. Sandpiper	16; 27	4; 4	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
"	29	28	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
"	29	13	Lowbanks (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	14F; 22	1; 1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Klick; DiTommaso

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
Least Sandpiper	21	45	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
"	25	31	Tifft NP	Watson
"	15 - 29	6 other recs	WNY and Ont.	Morgante
White-r. Sandpiper	14; 22	1; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	18	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
"	31	4	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Baird's Sandpiper	14; 15	1; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Klick; Pawlicki, Watson
"	14; 21	1; 1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	15; 16	3; 2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson; Morgante
"	18; 22	9; 4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg
"	18; 22	3; 3	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
"	22	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	27	3	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	31	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Gula
Pectoral Sandpiper	7; 14	18; 18	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson; Klick
"	14	30	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15; 28	28; 3	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Yoerg
"	16; 27	1; 2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
"	18	58	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	6	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
Stilt Sandpiper	14; 15	2; 12	Oak Orchard WMA	Klick; Watson
"	14; 21	1; 2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
"	20; 28	2; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	22	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Short-b. Dowitcher	14; 15	7; 4	Oak Orchard WMA	Klick; Pawlicki, Watson
"	18; 29	22; 5	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson; Rew, K&J Landau
"	20	4	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	20	4	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Wilson's Snipe	14	6	Oak Orchard WMA	Klick
"	14	1	Tonawanda WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Wilson's Phalarope	20F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Potter et al; Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	13	85	Niagara Falls	Klick
"	14; 16	4; 70	Woodlawn Beach SP	Klick; Morgante
"	15	2	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25; 31	51; 225	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson; Morgante
"	28	150	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson
"	29	11	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Rew, K&J Landau
Caspian Tern	28	200	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson
"	31	250	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg
"	14 - 29	8 other recs	WNY and Ont.	Several observers
Forster's Tern	18F; 23	3; 4	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	18F; 27	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	DiTommaso
"	27	3	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
Black Tern	14	5	Iroquois NWR	Klick
Common Nighthawk	12F; 28	1; 10	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	13	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	26	8	Amherst SP	Morgante
"	28	2	Lockport	S O'Donnell
"	29; 30	1; 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	31	1	Niagara Falls	T O'Donnell
Red-headed Wdpkr.	16	1	Lakeside Mem. Pk.	Andrle
"	20; 25	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Watson, Andrle; Watson, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	23	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	31	1	Erie Beach (Ont)	Yoerg
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	19	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Acadian Flycatcher	8	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Philadelphia Vireo	24F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Pawlicki
"	31	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Common Raven	11	1	Phillips Creek SF	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	2	Andover	Brooks
Bank Swallow	7	2000	Tonawanda WMA	DiTommaso
Cliff Swallow	1	14 + 28n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	6	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	18	8 ad+35 yg	North Harmony	Moshers
"	24	22 + 25n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
Carolina Wren	3; 20; 28	1; 1; 1	Times Beach NP	Hess; Watson; Andrle
"	8	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	18	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Winter Wren	18	3	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	17	1	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Blue-winged Warbler	25F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Brewster's Warbler	19	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Tennessee Warbler	19F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	31	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Nashville Warbler	17F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Yellow Warbler	29	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	28	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
Chestnut-s. Warbler	19	1	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Magnolia Warbler	19F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	31	3	Goat I.	Roberson
Cape May Warbler	17F; 19	1; 3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter; Potter
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	24F	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Pawlicki
Yellow-r. Warbler	17F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	18	4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Blackburnian Warbler	19F	2	Wilson	Potter
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Pine Warbler	11	1	Palmer Pond SF	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
Bay-breasted Warbler	19F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	20	1	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	24	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Pawlicki
Blackpoll Warbler	17F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	20	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	24	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	31	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Black-and-white Warb.	8	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	20F	1	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	29	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Ovenbird	24F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Northern Waterthrush	6F	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	D'Anna (OFO)
"	8	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Mourning Warbler	19F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	20	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
Hooded Warbler	20F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	1	Alfred	Brooks
Wilson's Warbler	27F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Canada Warbler	19F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	30	1	Colden	J Landau
Dark-eyed Junco	27F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Bobolink	14	200	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Eastern Meadowlark	7	14	Alfred	Brooks
Common Grackle	24	<u>693</u>	Amherst	Pawlicki
Orchard Oriole	3; 13L	1; 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Purple Finch	4	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**264**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**005**

**Total for the year 2005:**

**269**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## July 31 and August 28 Lake Erie Shorebird Field Trip Reports

by Michael Hamilton

On July 31 fifteen of us checked out shorebird habitat along the north shore of Lake Erie from Fort Erie to Rock Point Provincial Park with stops at Rose Hill, Stonemill and Prospect Point S. Roads, Morgan's Point, Rock Point and the sod farms along Canal Bank Rd. Our search was aided by lower lake levels this year exposing more feeding area for shorebirds.

Our most productive stop was at Rock Point where there were good shorebird numbers including 12 species: Baird's (2, spotted by Jim Pawlicki), Least, Semipalmated, Pectoral, and Spotted Sandpipers; Rudy Turnstones (2), Sanderlings, Short-billed Dowitchers (3), Lesser Yellowlegs,

Killdeers, Semipalmated Plovers and one Black-bellied Plover. Five more Black-bellies were seen at one of the few remaining sod farms along Canal Bank Rd. (most of the former sod fields have been converted to growing soy beans and the few remaining sod fields along the south side of Poth Rd. are brown).

A breeding plumaged Bonaparte's Gull was noted at Stonemill Rd., 2 Caspian Terns (one with a fish) and a Cedar Waxwing at Morgan's Point, a Belted Kingfisher near Port Maitland and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak along the way.

On August 28, with stops at Rose Hill and Stone Mill Roads, Prospect Point Road S., Morgan Point, Rock Point Provincial Park, sod farms along Canal Bank Rd., and Poth Road we had 14 species of shorebirds numbering approximately 300 individuals. We had great looks at a juvenile Whimbrel, spotted by Bill Watson from Harbourview Road, just east of Morgan Point, with feet that looked diseased but turned out to be caked with mud and grass, giving it a club-footed look. At the bay just east of Grabell Point we had good looks and much discussion regarding a juvenile Stilt Sandpiper. Our most productive stop was at Rock Point PP where there were many Semipalmated, Least and Spotted Sandpipers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Sanderlings, Semipalmated Plovers, several Pectoral and One Baird's Sandpiper, spotted by Jim Pawlicki, and 3 Rudy Turnstones. At the one remaining sod farm on Canal Bank Road we had approximately 85 Black-bellied Plovers and at least two, probably more, American Golden Plovers. Off Poth Road there was a big concentration of Killdeer.

Other birds of interest were several Long-tailed Ducks at Rock Point, Blue-winged Teal and Common Mergansers at Bertie Bay Road and a huge mixed flock of terns and gulls rising and falling like smoke around Mohawk Island.



*Least  
Sandpiper  
photographed  
by Melissa  
Coniglio on  
August 3rd,  
2005 at  
Batavia  
WWTP*

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<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

### November – December Calendar

**November 9: BOS Meeting** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. To celebrate the 201st anniversary of Alexander Wilson's epic foot Journey from Philadelphia to Niagara Falls Marty Schlabach and David Corson of Cornell University will present the lecture "**Of Birds and Poetry: Alexander Wilson's 1804 Expedition to Niagara Falls**" with power point and slides. This will be followed by the **election of Officers**.  
**November 20: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester GOS**, for gulls and waterfowl. Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Since this trip will mostly be in Canada, it is suggested that you bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Non-citizens should bring passports. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com) and GOS Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

**December 3: Saturday. Niagara River for Gulls.** Meet at 8:00 AM near the Peace Bridge at Vermont and Busti. Bring passport or appropriate identification for customs. Bad weather dates December 4, 10, and 11. Call: Peter Yoerg (716-834-6313 or morning of trip 838-6163).

**December 14: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: September

by Tim Baird

I hate weather you can't complain about. Many areas of the United States have had a tough go of it in the weather department recently, but western New York is not one of them. If a warm, dry summer is to your liking, this one was a delight, and it flowed nicely into September. According to the National Weather Service, this was Buffalo's warmest June to September period in history.

September's average temperature of 66.0° Fahrenheit was 4.5° above normal making September the tenth warmest in 135 years of weather records for Buffalo. The temperature reached 80° or better on six days in the month topping out at 85° on the 13<sup>th</sup>. September increased the total to four consecutive months of top ten temperature records. Only September 30<sup>th</sup> was cooler than normal with the month's minimum temperature for Buffalo dropping to 43°. Temperature is heavily dependent on cloud cover and 73% of possible sunshine was well above September's normal 53%. Twenty days were categorized as mostly sunny.

All the sun and warmth would lead one to expect a dry month, but Buffalo's September rainfall was actually 1.05 inches above normal totaling 4.89 inches. This inconsistency can be explained by the fact that nearly all of the rain fell during two events; September 16<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>--26<sup>th</sup>. The month had a soggy start when the remnants of Hurricane Katrina brought tropical moisture on the final day of August. However, by mid-month, September itself had only received 0.7 inches of rain. One to two inches of rain drenched the area on the 16<sup>th</sup> during the passage of a cold front. Leftovers from Hurricane Rita brought another bout of tropical moisture to western New York with up to three inches of rain falling on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the Buffalo area.

A powerful cold front passing through western New York early on the 29<sup>th</sup> reminded the region of the impending season. This front brought a brief

fall of heavy rain and strong winds with a recorded peak gust of 67 miles per hour at the Buffalo Airport. The strong winds damaged trees leading to many power outages in the area, but the weather quieted behind the front and the last day of September was calm and seasonably cool.

With the exception of the 29<sup>th</sup>, September's winds were described by the National Weather Service as "on the light side through the month". They also reported Lake Erie's temperature "remained well above normal for most of the month, but did slide to 65 degrees on the final day, just a degree above its long term norm for September 30<sup>th</sup>".

September lived up to its solar calendar position as a mostly summer month. September's weather brought congenial conditions for our birds and the birders who pursue them.

The seasonal transition of summer birds to winter birds is well underway in September. Our summer residents are inclined to leave nesting territories and mix with permanent residents and migrants arriving from more northern regions. All of this activity makes for good birding.



American Avocet photographed by Paul Hess on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at Iroquois NWR.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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to imitations of its call. This species is a new addition to the BOS region for 2005, but it is considered a probable release from captivity.

Several reports of Great Egrets reached an impressive 87 counted by Burch and Nutting at Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

The southern tier continues to provide good sightings of Bald Eagles. Neveu found four in Great Valley and another in Salamanca on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Yoerg continues to monitor Merlin at the UB South Campus with two to three birds found there during several dates spanning the month. The Atlas 2000 project will show an interesting change in nesting behavior for Merlin. There were no documented nests for Merlin in the first New York State Breeding Bird Atlas (1980-1986); however Atlas 2000 has documented over 35 nests within the state. This includes at least two locations in the BOS region.

Shorebirds were well represented in the region, particularly in the hotspots north of the Canadian border. Yoerg and Henderson found impressive numbers of Black-bellied Plover at Dunnville, Ontario with a maximum of 44 on the

Most waterfowl are not in a hurry to leave their summer homes at this season as food is still readily available. However, Morgante, Lazarczyk, and Watson *et. al.* through visits to the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant provided good numbers of some duck species including American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Duck. Eared Grebes were documented at Batavia with Morgante finding two on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Watson *et. al.* observing three and two on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> respectively. Long-tailed Ducks made an early appearance at Rock Point Provincial Park. Yoerg and Henderson saw four on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and at least one was still there on the 21<sup>st</sup> as observed by Watson.

The O'Donnells found a Northern Bobwhite at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge feeding along the berm of a road on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The bird responded vocally

The O'Donnells found a Northern Bobwhite at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge feeding along the berm of a road on the 11<sup>th</sup>. The bird responded vocally

25<sup>th</sup>. The same location hosted 30 American Golden-Plover on September 8<sup>th</sup> seen by Yoerg, and he found an additional 30 on the same date at Wainfleet, Ontario. Hess found and photographed an American Avocet at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Watson added Buff-breasted Sandpiper to the BOS list for 2005 finding two on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Moulton, Ontario.

Good numbers of Forster's Tern were observed at Beaver Island State Park during the month with a maximum of 22 reported by Sharon on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

D'Anna *et. al.* observed and D'Anna photographed a Northern Saw-whet Owl in Wilson on September 25<sup>th</sup>, an early date for migration.

Submitted bird records for September show a good passerine mix. The weather conditions apparently fostered a leisurely passage of insectivores through the area early in the month. Foraging flocks dominated by a good variety of vireos and warblers were common.

In spite of all the pleasant weather, few reports of flycatchers were sent in. An Olive-sided Flycatcher seen on the 19<sup>th</sup> by Salembier at Tillman Wildlife Management Area is a bit late for a first observation for the fall migration. Perhaps the extended summer influenced them to tarry to our north.

Andrle's report of a White-eyed Vireo at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 27<sup>th</sup> stated that this bird "still retained the juvenile dark iris". This infrequent species is always an exciting find as our region lies at the northern extent of its range.

From the north, Philadelphia Vireos were observed in passage by many birders with a maximum of 4 seen by Salembier on the 19<sup>th</sup> in Amherst State Park. Our summer resident vireos were in the mix, though not commonly reported. A lingering Yellow-throated Vireo was observed by Baird in Allegany State Park on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Thrushes are a family that requires careful observation by birders for identification. Those who have good ears and knowledge of their flight calls have an advantage as the thrushes frequently call at night during migration. Finding a Gray-cheeked Thrush in passage is always notable. Several reports for Gray-cheeked Thrush include an estimated 15-25 heard by Yoerg over Buffalo on the night of September 16<sup>th</sup> which he described as "a great migrant night".

This month would not be nearly as exciting without the wood warblers. Not only are we invaded by a significant variety of these species, many come in subdued or altered plumage to sweeten the challenge of identification. Reports show 25 warbler species noted this month across western New York.

Now increasingly rare, single Golden-winged Warblers were observed on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> by Sharon in Beaver Island State Park. Tennessee Warblers were noted regularly throughout the month, with Beattie reporting the daily maximum of six on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Bethany. Orange-crowned Warblers were seen throughout the month starting with a single bird on the 4<sup>th</sup> observed by Salembier and Pawlicki in Amherst State Park and reaching a maximum of 4 on the 17<sup>th</sup> reported in Bethany by Beattie.

Roberson observed the first Northern Parula for the month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Goat Island. Yellow Warblers tend to make an early exit from our region, but D'Anna and Potter found 2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> in Wilson. Migrants arriving from the boreal forests including Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers were reported by several observers in the region. The latter two are perhaps the most "confusing fall warblers".

A late Louisiana Waterthrush responded to 'pishing' by Baird in Allegany State Park on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Beattie found late Mourning Warblers in Bethany with 4 on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 2 more on the 30<sup>th</sup>. He added a late Hooded Warbler at the same location on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Like Gray-cheeked Thrushes, the Lincoln Sparrow is another passage species that requires a good look to confirm due to its similarity to some of its more common relatives. Unlike most of our sparrows, this species is usually observed as single birds, which was the case for our reports. They include a first record on the 9<sup>th</sup> by Sharon at Beaver Island State Park and ending with a single bird on the 28<sup>th</sup> in Amherst State Park by the Salembiers.

D'Anna *et. al.* found two Clay-colored Sparrows in Wilson on the 18<sup>th</sup>. D'Anna noted several characteristics separating this species from the very similar Chipping Sparrow including its shape with a noticeably longer tail. D'Anna also reported two more significant sparrow finds in the Town of Wilson on September 18<sup>th</sup>, an increasingly scarce Vesper Sparrow and an early White-crowned Sparrow.

At the risk of criticism for anthropomorphism, I would speculate that the birds enjoyed western New York's September as much as the birders did.

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## News from the Internet: Nocturnal Migrant Towerkill in Madison, Wisc. on the Nights of September 13-14 and 7-8, 2005

While searching the internet for a short article that would complement this issue of the Prothonotary, I stumbled onto a website (<http://my.execpc.com/CE/5F/idzikoj/passerines/towerkill.htm>; see photographs) documenting a substantial bird kill during September, 2005 in Madison Wisconsin. Nearly 200 migrant warblers, thrushes, and vireos were recovered from the base of a communication tower during the morning of September 14<sup>th</sup>. The following account was written by Andy Paulios.

Dead nocturnal migrant birds were found on the ground around the Madison Channel 15 transmitting tower (approx. 1000 ft. tall) on the morning of the 14th. A cold front had passed on the 13th three hours before the onset of migration that night. The skies were clear with good visibility and the birds had a tailwind. Another, possibly larger kill was reported anecdotally from the morning of the 8th under conditions of moderate rain during peak nocturnal migration.

The night of the 13th and morning of the 14th was shaping up to be another high migration event. I arrived at the site on the morning of the 14th at approximately 7:00 AM. Upon reaching the wooded section of the playground I immediately started to notice dead birds. I was astounded to reach the northernmost ball field and see numerous dead birds and a few live, injured birds on the field from a distance. I then began walking a series of semi-circular transects from the outfield into the infield and covered the entire field very thoroughly. Towards the end of the field I was joined by Carrie Morgan and Mike Foy. Together we proceed to collect dead birds in a systematic manner on the lower fields and under the tower. All told we thoroughly covered all the baseball fields and the intervening areas to our satisfaction. Crows began to scavenge dead birds on the lower field at 8:00AM and probably took 20-50 dead birds before we could get out there. There were probably many more dead birds north of the tower and east of the tower that we either couldn't see in the woods or we couldn't get to because we didn't search north of the tower.

Totals: Red-eyed Vireo, 18 + 2 wounded; Philadelphia Vireo, 4; Swainson's Thrush, 1; Veery? – unsure of ID/ mangled, 1; Golden-winged Warbler, 5; Tennessee Warbler, 16; Nashville Warbler, 1; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 5; Magnolia Warbler, 7; Palm Warbler, 2; Cape May Warbler, 6; Black-throated Blue Warbler, 2; Blackburnian Warbler, 1; Black-throated Green Warbler, 1; Blackpoll Warbler, 3; Bay-breasted Warbler, 3; Black-and-white Warbler, 21; American Redstart, 13; Northern Waterthrush, 1; Ovenbird, 54; Common Yellowthroat, 3; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2; Total: 175. Of note are the relatively large number of Golden-winged Warblers found at the site. 5 individuals represents almost 1% of the total GWWA picked up at communication towers in the eastern U.S. since monitoring has begun.

Towerkills of this magnitude usually occur in September, the month of peak fall migration under conditions of light rain, mist or fog often when birds begin migrating behind a cold front and then hit that front as they fly south. The poor visibility drives them lower, well below the 1000 ft height of the taller towers and they are then attracted to its lights. The migrants circle the lights, hitting the tower itself or its guy wires. These taller towers (500-1000 ft.) are tall enough to kill birds on clear nights as the bottom of the migrating swarm is often below 1000 ft., but normally not in numbers such as was seen this night.

Kills can occur in April and May as well when birds are returning north. It is a mystery why such a kill occurred at this tower under benign conditions. Is this tower causing such kills on a regular basis during peak migration and these have been missed due to lack of continuous monitoring? Another possibility is an unusually large number of migrants were making landfall at dawn in the vicinity of this tower and hit the guy wires. There was no fog reported on the official weather observation record for that night but perhaps a local heavy ground fog contributed to this event.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	8	7	Pt. Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg
American Wigeon	3	8	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	17; 27	20; 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
Northern Shoveler	3; 17,27	175; 156,75	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson et al
Northern Pintail	3; 27	8; 7	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
"	4	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Green-winged Teal	3; 17; 27	50; 5; 18	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson; Watson
"	3	12	Wilson	Ewald, D'Anna
"	25	2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Lesser Scaup	17; 27	1; 8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	21	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	21	8	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
White-winged Scoter	3F	4	Wilson	Ewald, D'Anna
Long-tailed Duck	<u>1; 17; 25</u>	4; 2; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	<u>21</u>	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Common Merganser	26	71	Sheridan	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	3; 17; 27	60; 66; 114	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson; Watson
* <u>Northern Bobwhite</u> probable release	11	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
Common Loon	3F	3	Wilson	Ewald, D'Anna
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	3	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	17; 27	3; 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
D.-crested Cormorant	3; 17	100; 113	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
"	7	65	Tonawanda WMA	Burch, Nutting
"	14	140	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	20	748	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	21	186	Reef Lighthouse	Watson
Great Egret	3	2	Times Beach NP	Andrle et al
"	7	<u>87</u>	Tonawanda WMA	Burch, Nutting
"	15; 23	3; 1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	18 - 21	2	Tifft NP	Andrle, Bogacki
"	27	12	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	16; 26	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	17	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	21	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
Osprey	1	2	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	9	1	Reinstein Woods NP	Andrle
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	17	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	22	1	Buffalo	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bald Eagle	8	1 imm	Cold Spring	Baird
"	8	1 juv	Pt. Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg
"	17	1 juv	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	2 ad, 2 juv	Great Valley	Neveu
"	24	1 ad	Salamanca	Neveu
"	26; 28	1 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	27	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	18	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Broad-winged Hawk	4	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	24	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Merlin	<u>3 - 30</u>	5 recs; 3 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	8	1	Pt. Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	30	1	Black Rock Canal	D'Anna
Black-bellied Plover	1; 6; 25	34; 20; 44	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg; Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	8	3	Crystal Beach (Ont)	Yoerg
"	8	30	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	8; 17; 25	30; 6; 1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg; Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	3	Moulton (Ont)	Watson
"	28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
<u>American Avocet</u>	9	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess
Semipalmated Plover	3	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	8	1	Cold Spring	Baird
"	21	3	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	11; 17	2; 1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	27	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red Knot	1	9	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
White-r. Sandpiper	1	10	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	8	1	Crystal Beach (Ont)	Yoerg
"	17	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Baird's Sandpiper	1	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	1; 8	2; 1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
Dunlin	25F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Stilt Sandpiper	21	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
* Buff-br. Sandpiper	21	2	Moulton (Ont)	Watson
Caspian Tern	3	1	Tifft NP	Andrle
"	3	1	Buffalo River	K&J Landau
"	7; 9	2; 13	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk; Hess
"	21	8	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Forster's Tern	7 - 29	6 recs; <u>22</u> max	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	22	<u>21</u>	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	<u>25</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Common Nighthawk	3; 12	1; 4	Tonawanda	Hess
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	1 - 24	12 recs; 3 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	14 - 28	6 recs; 2 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
"	30	8	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	1	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	19L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
White-eyed Vireo	<u>27</u>	1	Tifft NP	Andrle, Bogacki
Yellow-thr. Vireo	11L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Philadelphia Vireo	3-15	18 recs; 4 max	BOS area: WNY, Ontario	Many observers
Common Raven	11	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	11	18	Royalton	S&T O'Donnell
"	28; 29	20; 50	Goat I.	Roberson
Bank Swallow	17L	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Watson
Cliff Swallow	17L	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Watson
Red-br. Nuthatch	15F	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	3-18	17 recs; 2 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Winter Wren	8	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	24	1	Wilson	Watson et al
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	T O'Donnell
Golden-cr. Kinglet	26F	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	12	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	28	2	Bethany	Beattie
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	8	1	Wilson	Potter
Veery	18L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Gray-cheeked Thrush	4F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	8 - 26	8 recs; 2 max	WNY & Ontario	Several observers
"	16	<u>20</u>	Buffalo	Yoerg
Swainson's Thrush	2F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	11	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	17	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Hermit Thrush	23F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
American Pipit	8F	2	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	24	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Blue-winged Warbler	8	1	Cold Spring	Baird
"	19L	1	Colden	J Landau
Golden-wing. Warbler	9; <u>27L</u>	1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Tennessee Warbler	8 - 29	10 recs; 6 max	BOS area: WNY, Ontario	Several observers
Orange-cr. Warbler	13 - 28	6 recs; 4 max	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	1	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Nashville Warbler	1F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	3 - 30	13 recs; 6 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Northern Parula	3F; 18	1; 1	Goat I.	Roberson et al
"	11	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	16	1	Wilson	Potter
Yellow Warbler	3	3	Goat I.	Roberson et al
"	17	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18L	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Cape May Warbler	8 - 24	10 recs; 3 max	BOS area: WNY, Ontario	Several observers
Pine Warbler	4	3	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	8F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	8; 17	1; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	18; 27	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Palm Warbler	4F;12;29	1; 2; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	8; 17	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Bay-breasted Warbler	8; 15; 18	2; 2; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Blackpoll Warbler	8-26	8 recs; 3 max	Throughout WNY and Ont	Several observers
Black-and-white Warb.	3-23	6 recs; 2 max	Throughout WNY and Ont	Several observers
La. Waterthrush	<u>18</u>	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Mourning Warbler	28	4	Bethany	Beattie
"	30L	2	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Hooded Warbler	8	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	11; 19L	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
Wilson's Warbler	2	1	Randolph	Baird
<u>Clay-col. Sparrow</u>	25	2	Wilson	Watson, D'Anna et al
Vesper Sparrow	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Lincoln's Sparrow	9F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	15	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	15	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	16 - 28	5 recs; 1 each	Throughout WNY	Several observers
White-thr. Sparrow	3F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	8	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	11 - 28	9 recs; 20 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
White-cr. Sparrow	<u>18F</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	30	2	Bethany	Beattie
Dark-eyed Junco	15	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	29	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Bobolink	3	3	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Baltimore Oriole	3L	1	Golden Hill SP	Salembier

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **270**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** **002**

**Total for the year 2005:** **272**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

#### BOS Region 2005 Christmas Bird Counts:

**Dec. 17: Saturday. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler:

Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or  
vanscoy1@juno.com).

**Dec. 17: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul

Fehringer (585) 457-3228 or fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org.

**Dec. 17: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler:

Garner Light (772-5110 or garnerlight@hotmail.com).

**Dec. 18: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Count.** Compiler: Bill

Bogacki (674- 5781).

**Dec. 18: Sunday. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bob Sundell (bird.central@madbbs.com or 716-484-2197).

**Dec. 18: St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin

(mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-892-3108).

**Dec. 27: Tuesday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-937-5105 or gails@netacc.net).

**Dec. 27: Tuesday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@wzrd.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayoroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side.

**Jan. 1: Sunday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz (goetz@netsync.net or 716-673-1627) and Paul Farver (716-792-9042).

**Jan. 1: Sunday. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell (drew.campbell@gm.com or voice mail at 1-800-539-2329). Meet at McDonald's (corner of Highway 3 and 58 in Port Colbourne) at 8 AM.

**Jan. 2: Monday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Mike Zebehazy 662-6987 or zebs@adelphia.net

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December – January Calendar

**\*\*Christmas Bird Counts are tabulated at the bottom of Page 95 \*\***

**Dec. 3: Saturday. Niagara River for Gulls.** Meet at 8:00 AM near the Peace Bridge at Vermont and Busti. Bring passport or appropriate identification for customs. Bad weather dates December 4, 10, and 11. Call: Peter Yoerg (716-834-6313 or morning of trip 838-6163).

**Dec. 14: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:30 PM** in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship.

**Jan. 11: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Mike Hamilton will present details of the Buffalo Ornithological Society October 9th Count and discuss abundance trends in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. This discussion will be followed by a BOS business meeting.

**Jan. 15: Sunday. Waterfowl Count of the New York State Ornithological Association.** This is the target date, but any date between Saturday, Jan 14, and Sunday, Jan 22, inclusive is acceptable. However, the best count of shifting flocks is attained if everyone uses the target date, weather permitting. Contact the Compiler: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com).

**January 25: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Mike Morgan, Wildlife Ecologist for Audubon New York, will discuss Coordinating Grassland Bird Conservation in New York. He will talk about various aspects of grassland management, monitoring, and private lands conservation; as well as briefly discuss the link between this current effort and his master's research, and how that experience (funded in part by BOS) helped prepare him for this role of coordinating Audubon New York's new grasslands program.



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 71, No. 11 November, 2005

### THE MONTH: October

by Bill Watson

During October the record breaking long summer of 2005 continued during the first week, but abruptly changed to a more autumnal pattern the last three weeks. The average temperature was 52.7 °F (2.0 degrees above normal) with all of the excess occurring in the first week when the temperature was an anomalous 12 °F above normal. During the last three weeks of the month, late fall conditions prevailed with seasonal temperatures and an earlier than usual gloomy cloudy period. Sunshine totaled only 37%, well below the normal 50% for October. Total precipitation was 2.64 inches, 0.55 inches less than normal; however, over half of that fell from the 22nd to the 25th of the month. On average October was mild, cloudy, and drier than normal.

Winds were moderate this month, and, other than the 44 mph WSW peak gusts on the 19<sup>th</sup>, there were no strong winds to bring the usual jaegers and rare gulls close to Woodlawn and Athol Springs on Lake Erie. The only jaegers of the month were found on the south shore of Lake Ontario at Wilson.

The unseasonably warm weather (with temperatures 12°F above average) at the beginning of the month slowed migration for a number of species. The 18 species of warblers seen on the BOS October 9<sup>th</sup> Count is the highest since 1987. If the decline in warblers continues from their non-normalized high in the 1970s, we may never see again as many warbler species and as many individual warblers on the October Count as in 2005. The late Mourning Warbler found near Tug Hill Road in New Albion in Section 17 was an excellent find. The only two later records for this species are on October 18, 1992, in Alfred and on the October 11, 1992 Count in

Section 18. Other late birds requiring a written verification report were an *empidonax* flycatcher in Allegany State Park, Caspian Terns in Port Colborne Harbor (2) and Dunkirk Harbor (3) and

Sunset Bay, all on Lake Erie, and a remarkable five juvenile Buff-breasted Sandpipers in "a freshly ploughed field on the west side of Four Mile Creek Road in Saint David's, Ontario." This find by Kayo Roy and Brian Ahara is the latest ever in the BOS archives. The previous latest documented record was a single Buff-breasted Sandpiper at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on October 7, 1994.

While birding on the east side of Francis Road in the Town of Bethany, Doug Beattie observed "a streamline, tan colored" warbler "with no distinguishing markings except very vivid dark eye line and head stripe." Spring Worm-eating Warblers are very rare, but in fall they are almost nonexistent! The only other records of fall Worm-eating Warblers were September 8 at Lakeside Cemetery, Hamburg, September 28 at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, both in 1975, and September 4, 1942, at Delaware Park, Buffalo, which makes this sighting the latest ever and only our fourth fall record.

The October Count also had unusually early birds requiring written verification reports: Brant along Lake Ontario at Wilson Harbor (4) and Shadigee (10); Red-necked Grebe at Wilson Harbor (2) and Four Mile Creek S.



Bathing American Pipits photographed by Willie D'Anna on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005 near his home in Wilson, NY.

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### BOS Calendar

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Please mail correspondence to:

Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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migration pattern might be, or if it is only a bias caused by better telescopes or better observers living closer to Lake Ontario.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> Mike Morgante found a probable Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose hybrid at Countryside Sand and Gravel Ponds off Route 62 in the Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus County. This is the first record of this hybrid in the BOS study area. At his website *Confusing Domestic Geese (and hybrids)* <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/dom-geese.htm> Kevin McGowan points out that Graylag Geese and other domestic geese hybridize with Canada Geese and "closely resembles the 'Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose hybrid' pictured in the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, but [are] probably far more frequently encountered than that presumably rare hybrid" Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose. His photos and discussion should be carefully studied before making a decision on this hybrid. Also size is important, and this natural hybrid should generally be smaller than most Canada Geese. There was also a Cackling Goose at the same time and location.

P. (1); a Bufflehead at Countryside Gravel Pit near Dayton; American Tree Sparrow at Lakeside Beach S. P. (4) and four more at three other undisclosed locations. At the end of Lorraine Road in Port Colborne, Ontario, Doug Happ and Mike Zebehazy had the good fortune to spot four very rare Hudsonian Godwits. There was a total of 16 written verification reports for the October Count which are the most that I recall. The 198 Brant counted at Wilson on October 8<sup>th</sup> by D'Anna and Ewald is an unprecedented early number. Although the *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: The Niagara Frontier Region* shows none in the first half of October, they have appeared in ten of the October Counts since 1935. They are "fairly common" the last half of October, and only recently (1999) have comparable numbers appeared as early as October 18<sup>th</sup>. One has to wonder what the cause of this apparent shift in

On the 29<sup>th</sup> Mike found three Cackling Geese at Ring-neck Marsh on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Unlike most of us who attempt to find these Geese by their smaller size, he "first noticed these birds by their lighter body color ... among the few thousand of Canada Geese." In one sentence of his detailed report he wrote: "The geese were not only considerably smaller in size, but their necks were much shorter and their bills were stubby, much smaller than the Canada Geese." This is the seventh year in a row that the Richardson's subspecies of Cackling Goose has been documented in the fall in the BOS study area (and with the exception of 2004 they have been documented each fall at Ringneck Marsh.)

Historically (before 1965) about three-fourths of our Eurasian Wigeon records occur in spring and only a quarter or less occur as fall migrants. This makes the very rare Eurasian Wigeon found at Ring-neck Marsh on Iroquois NWR on the 29<sup>th</sup> an even more outstanding record. Other records worthy of mention were the ten day late Barn Swallow at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on October 29, the two day late Pine Warbler on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and the 34 day late Baltimore Oriole on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Although there are four Red-throated Loon records on past October Counts, the only non-count record earlier than the three at Wilson on the 16<sup>th</sup> are two observed at Somerset October 9, 2000. The 82 Pied-billed Grebes counted by Dave Neveu at Celeron on Chautauqua Lake are only bettered by the 92 Pied-billed Grebes at Iroquois NWR on September 16, 1971.

The immature Golden Eagle at Iroquois NWR on the 29<sup>th</sup> is only our ninth fall record and fifth October record of this seldom seen fall migrant. As with Eurasian Wigeon and Worm-eating Warbler, the majority of our migrant Golden Eagle records are in spring rather than in fall. Historically, 92% of our migrant records are seen in spring and only 8% are seen in the fall.

The October 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Saw-whet Owl banded in Wethersfield, Wyoming County, by Dave and Sandy Junkin was 16 days early. They banded 28 of these owls in October. A Northern Saw-whet Owl they banded on October 13, 2003, turned up at Long Point Observatory in Port Rowan, Ontario, on October 17, 2005. This year on the 28<sup>th</sup> they recovered an owl banded at Timiskaming Bird Observatory in Northern Ontario.

Baltimore Oriole is another species whose late fall and winter status is changing. The Baltimore Oriole at the D'Anna-Potter residence in Wilson on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> is the latest fall record in 29 years. Between 1950 and 1963 we have six winter records for this species. From 1964 to 1976 there are five October birds, two in November, but only four in winter. Strangely, from 1977 to 2004 there are zero October, November, and wintering Baltimore Orioles records. It's puzzling as to why there were abundant late Baltimore Orioles from 1950 to 1976 and then none from 1977 to 2004.

(continued on page 103)

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Hybrid Gr. WF x Canada G.</u> [Probable]	30	1	Dayton	Morgante
Snow Goose	2	1 wh, 1 blu	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	29	3	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	30	1	Dayton	Morgante
Brant	8F	198	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	12	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	27; 29	21; 1	Wilson	D'Anna et al; Watson et al
Mute Swan	2	1	Pt. Breeze	S&T O'Donnell
"	29	2	Wilson	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	30	1	North Collins	Morgante
Gadwall	24; 27	7; 44	Celeron	Neveu
"	30	8	Dayton	Morgante
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
American Wigeon	8	85	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	29	100	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
Blue-winged Teal	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	7; 29	228; 447	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
"	27	9	Celeron	Neveu
Northern Pintail	7; 29	35; 18	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
"	8	55	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
Green-winged Teal	7; 29	17; 35	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
"	8	20	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
Canvasback	29F	10	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Redhead	16F	44	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	24; 27	24; 120	Celeron	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	8F	4	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	27	52	Celeron	Neveu
"	28; 30	61; 101	Dayton	Neveu
"	30	60	Dayton	Morgante
Greater Scaup	8F; 16; 29	5; 35; 7	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald; Watson et al
Lesser Scaup	8; 16	15; 101	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	29	26	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Surf Scoter	8F; 16	22; 2	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	23	12	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29; 30	19; 13	Wilson	Watson et al; D'Anna, Potter
White-winged Scoter	8; 16	196; 232	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	25	22	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	29	119	Wilson	Watson et al
Black Scoter	16F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	7	Wilson	Watson et al
Long-tailed Duck	29	133	Wilson	Watson et al
Bufflehead	16; 29	4; 11	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald; Watson et al
"	29	16	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Common Goldeneye	29F	9	Wilson	Watson et al
Hooded Merganser	25	12; 10	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Common Merganser	29	23	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Red-br. Merganser	29	605	Wilson	Watson et al
Ruddy Duck	7; 29	212; 430	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morgante
"	24; 27	10; 46	Celeron	Neveu
"	28; 30	88; 72	Dayton	Neveu
"	30	62	Dayton	Morgante
Wild Turkey	23; 26	100; 100	Chautauqua County	Lazarczyk
Red-throated Loon	<u>16F</u>	3	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	23	1	Barker	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	18	Wilson	Watson et al
"	30	90	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Common Loon	8; 16	57; 61	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	23	40	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	15	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	29; 30	34; 134	Wilson	Watson et al; D'Anna, Potter
Pied-billed Grebe	27	<u>82</u>	Celeron	Neveu
Horned Grebe	23	10	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28; 30	1; 1	Dayton	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	<u>8F</u> , 16	4; 2	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	23	2	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	9	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	29	2	Wilson	Watson
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	7	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
D.-crested Cormorant	4	691	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	7	38	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Great Egret	13	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	29; 30L	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante; S&T O'Donnell
Turkey Vulture	25	10	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	26	30	Barcelona Harbor	Neveu
Osprey	8	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
Bald Eagle	7 - 28	12 recs; 2 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Rough-legged Hawk	16F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
"	30	1	Dayton	Morgante
"	30	1	Ellington	Morgante
"	30	1	Cherry Creek	Morgante
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	29	1 imm	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
Merlin	8	1	Batavia WWTP	S&T O'Donnell
"	14; 23; 26	4; 2; 4	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	6	1	Wethersfield	S&D Junkin
"	8	6	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
Virginia Rail	10; 12L	1; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Common Moorhen	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	7	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
American Coot	24; 27	500; 600	Celeron	Neveu
Black-bellied Plover	4	3	Somerset	Watson et al
"	22	2	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Amer. Golden-Plover	22L	1	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Semipalmated Plover	4	1	Somerset	Watson et al
"	22	1	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Greater Yellowlegs	2	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	13 - 25	1 - 3	Times Beach NP	Andrle et al
"	30	1	Times Beach NP	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	13	2	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Spotted Sandpiper	16	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Sanderling	12; 28	9; 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	30	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Morgante, Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	22	4	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Dunlin	4	5	Somerset	Watson et al
"	8	2	Hanover	Neveu
"	12	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	22	2	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Wilson's Snipe	7	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
<u>Jaeger species</u>	27	3	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	29	7	Wilson	Watson, D'Anna et al
Caspian Tern	8	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Tern	18L	8	Iroquois NWR	Burch
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	2 - 31	12 recs; 6 max	Wethersfield	S&D Junkin
Chimney Swift	5	6	Lancaster	Morgante
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	5L	1	Wilson	Potter
Northern Shrike	30	1	Niagara Co.	S&T O'Donnell
Red-eyed Vireo	12L	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Common Raven	23	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	19	1	Cold Spring	Baird
"	22; 31	2; 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	30	5	Ward	Brooks
Horned Lark	28	11	Pomfret	Neveu
"	29	16	Wilson	Watson et al
Purple Martin	8	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Barn Swallow	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	7	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	<u>29L</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	10 recs; 2 max (10th)	Throughout WNY & Ont	Several observers
House Wren	7	1	Bethany	Beattie
Winter Wren	8	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	10; 12	2; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	16	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
"	23	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Marsh Wren	2	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	8	13	Hanover	Neveu
Eastern Bluebird	8	23	Silver Creek	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	20	Tillman WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Swainson's Thrush	11L	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	11L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Northern Mockingbird	8	1	Hanover	Neveu
American Pipit	1	50	Wilson	D'Anna
"	2	30	Clarence Turf Farm	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19	40	Cold Spring	Baird
"	30	30	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
Tennessee Warbler	6	2	Bethany	Beattie
Orange-cr. Warbler	2; 4	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	8	2	Pomfret	Mosher
"	8; 10	4; 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	16	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Nashville Warbler	16	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	16	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
"	16	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Northern Parula	16L	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Magnolia Warbler	15L	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	16L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Blackburnian Warbler	5L	1	Wilson	Potter
Pine Warbler	<u>16</u>	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Palm Warbler	16	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
"	17	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Worm-eating Warbler</u>	6	1	Bethany	Beattie
Ovenbird	8L	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
Scarlet Tanager	8L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Eastern Towhee	16	3	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Tree Sparrow	29	4	Wilson	Watson, D'Anna et al
Vesper Sparrow	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Savannah Sparrow	10	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	13L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Fox Sparrow	16; 23	4; 2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson; Baird
"	19	1	Cold Spring	Baird
"	23	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	25	3	Tonawanda	Watson
"	29	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Lincoln's Sparrow	8	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
"	9	1	Carrollton	Baird
"	9	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	13L	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	13L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	24F; 27	9; 11	Barcelona Harbor	Neveu
"	29	3	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	30	75	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Rose-br. Grosbeak	8	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Indigo Bunting	1	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	2F	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	30	Lancaster	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25	11	Tonawanda	Watson
"	30	200	Tillman WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Baltimore Oriole	21; <u>25L</u>	1	Wilson	Potter
Pine Siskin	24	20	Wilson (f)	D'Anna
"	27;29;30	50;30;105	Wilson	D'Anna et al

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 272

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month and October Count:** 003

**Total for the year 2005:** 275

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

(continued from The Month)

The following sources were used in this report:

Beardslee, C.S., and H.D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

Hamilton, Michael. Report of the 70th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

McGowan, Kevin. *Confusing Domestic Geese (and hybrids)* <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/crows/domgeese.htm>

McLaughlin. National Weather Service. October 2005, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David. Custodian of the B. O. S. Noteworthy Records Data Base 1964 - 2003 compiled by Dean DiTommaso et al.

Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

#### BOS Region 2005 Christmas Bird Counts:

**Dec. 17: Saturday. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler:

Regina M. VanScoy (716 - 925-7109 or [vanscoy1@juno.com](mailto:vanscoy1@juno.com)).

**Dec. 17: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585) 457-3228 or [fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org](mailto:fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org).

**Dec. 17: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110 or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 18: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Count.** Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674- 5781).

**Dec. 18: Sunday. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bob Sundell ([bird.central@madbbs.com](mailto:bird.central@madbbs.com) or 716-484-2197).

**Dec. 18: St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-892-3108).

**Dec. 27: Tuesday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-937-5105 or [gails@netacc.net](mailto:gails@netacc.net)).

**Dec. 27: Tuesday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or [dannapotter@wzrd.com](mailto:dannapotter@wzrd.com)) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com)) to work on the Canadian side.

**Jan. 1: Sunday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz ([goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627) and Paul Farver (716-792-9042).

**Jan. 1: Sunday. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell ([drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or voice mail at 1-800-539-2329). Meet at McDonald's (corner of Highway 3 and 58 in Port Colbourne) at 8 AM.

**Jan. 1: Sunday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Mike Zebehazy 662-6987 or [zebs@adelphia.net](mailto:zebs@adelphia.net)

# Report of the 70th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 9, 2005

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

On Count Day the BOS Study Area experienced cloudy skies and moderate temperatures. Winds were generally out of the North for most of the day. Most sections remained precipitation free, but light drizzle was common during the evening hours.

### Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 6:22 AM EST      Sunset: 5:43 PM EST

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Cloudy	48	38	30.00	NE12	
3:00 am	Cloudy	48	39	30.00	NE12	
6:00 am	Partly Cloudy	46	39	30.02	N9	
9:00 am	Cloudy	46	40	30.06	N8	
Noon	Cloudy	48	41	30.06	NE8	
3:00 pm	Cloudy	50	43	30.06	NE8	
6:00 pm	Cloudy	48	44	30.08	NE9	
9:00 pm	Light Drizzle	49	47	30.11	NE8	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

### GEESE - HERONS

Snow Goose	16	Long-tailed Duck	F	7
Canada Goose	14,996	<b>Bufflehead</b>	F	1 (17)
<b>Brant</b>	14 (3,5)	Hooded Merganser		14
<b>Mute Swan</b>	25	Common Merganser		200
Wood Duck	478	Red-breasted Merganser		229
Gadwall	37	Ruddy Duck		32 (8,13,17)
American Wigeon	306	unspecified waterfowl		27 (10,13,20)
American Black Duck	95	Ring-necked Pheasant		8
Mallard	3,383	Ruffed Grouse		11
Blue-winged Teal	119	Wild Turkey		165
Northern Shoveler	301	Common Loon		55
Northern Pintail	258	Pied-billed Grebe		156
Green-winged Teal	122	Horned Grebe		10
Redhead	F 5 (10)	<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>		4 (3,5)
Ring-necked Duck	19	Double-crested Cormorant		2,588
Greater Scaup	513	Great Blue Heron		237
Lesser Scaup	97 (3,6,7)	Great Egret		11
Surf Scoter	40 (3,16)	Green Heron		8 (12,19,27)
White-winged Scoter	469 (3,5)	Blk-crowned Night-Heron		4 (9,11)
Black Scoter	3 (3,16)			

### VULTURES - CRANES

Turkey Vulture	415	Red-tailed Hawk		236
Osprey	11	unspecified buteo		4 (22)
Bald Eagle	16	American Kestrel		65
Northern Harrier	35	Merlin		11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18	Peregrine Falcon		3 (10,11)
Cooper's Hawk	26	Common Moorhen	L	3 (2,11)
Red-shouldered Hawk	4 (12,20)	American Coot		538

## P L O V E R S - T E R N S

Black-bellied Plover		3	(8,13)	Pectoral Sandpiper		26	(2,3,23)
American Golden Plover		33	(2,3,20)	Dunlin		10	(6,14)
Semipalmated Plover		3	(6,14)	<b>Buff-breasted Sandpiper</b>	L	5	(2)
Killdeer		649		Wilson's Snipe		10	
Greater Yellowlegs		29		American Woodcock		2	(17,19)
Lesser Yellowlegs		11		jaeger species		2	(3)
Spotted Sandpiper		7		Bonaparte's Gull		332	
<b>Hudsonian Godwit*</b>		4	(8)	Ring-billed Gull		10,003	
Sanderling		16		Herring Gull		816	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	L	22	(7,8)	Great Black-backed Gull		56	
Least Sandpiper	L	5	(13)	unspecified gulls		40	(3)
White-rumped Sandpiper		1	(6)	<b>Caspian Tern</b>		6	(7,16,20)
Baird's Sandpiper	L	2	(20)	Common Tern		4	(11,14)

## P I G E O N S - S W A L L O W S

Rock Pigeon		2,133		Eastern Wood-Pewee	L	2	(4)
Mourning Dove		2,520		<b>empidonax species</b>		1	(24)
Eastern Screech-Owl		12		Eastern Phoebe		94	
Great Horned Owl		13		Blue-headed Vireo		23	
Barred Owl		7		Philadelphia Vireo	L	1	(1)
Chimney Swift		286		Red-eyed Vireo		4	
Belted Kingfisher		53		Blue Jay		1,588	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		115		American Crow		3,375	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		54		Common Raven		15	(24,25,28)
Downy Woodpecker		349		Horned Lark		14	(5)
Hairy Woodpecker		72		Tree Swallow		248	
Northern Flicker		248		N. Rough-winged			
Pileated Woodpecker		27		Swallow		91	(5,7,16)
unspec'd woodpeckers		1	(23)	Barn Swallow		1	(2)

## T I T S - W A X W I N G S

Black-capped Chickadee		1,921		Eastern Bluebird		252	
Tufted Titmouse		120		Gray-cheeked Thrush	L	2	(3,4)
Red-breasted Nuthatch		83		Swainson's Thrush		19	
White-breasted Nuthatch		368		Hermit Thrush		115	
Brown Creeper		134		Wood Thrush		5	
Carolina Wren		21		American Robin		3,994	
House Wren	L	19		Gray Catbird		123	
Winter Wren		66		Northern Mockingbird		27	
Marsh Wren		6		Brown Thrasher		4	(11,20)
Golden-crowned Kinglet		880		European Starling		33,662	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1,304		American Pipit		287	
unspecified kinglets		40	(3)	Cedar Waxwing		589	
						39,079	

## W A R B L E R S

Tennessee Warbler	L	1	(23)	Pine Warbler		1	(17)
Orange-crowned Warbler		12		Palm Warbler		68	
Nashville Warbler		21		Bay-breasted Warbler	L	1	(9)
Chestnut-sided Warbler		1	(7)	Blackpoll Warbler	L	5	
Magnolia Warbler		10		Black-and-white Warbler	L	1	(5)
Cape May Warbler		1	(21)	American Redstart	L	2	(1,11)
Black-throated Blue Warbler		20		<b>Mourning Warbler</b>	L	1	(17)

Yellow-rumped Warbler		2,240	Common Yellowthroat	28
Blk-throated Green Warbler	L	27	unspecified warblers	3 (12,20)
Blackburnian Warbler		1 (20)		

## TOWHEES – HOUSE SPARROWS

Eastern Towhee		54	Northern Cardinal	368
American Tree Sparrow	F	8 (1.5)	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	L 3 (7,10,12)
Chipping Sparrow		1,030	Indigo Bunting	L 6
Field Sparrow		124	Red-winged Blackbird	19,710
Vesper Sparrow	L	5 (19,26)	Eastern Meadowlark	80
Savannah Sparrow		47	Rusty Blackbird	427
Fox Sparrow		21	Common Grackle	5,672
Song Sparrow		1,126	Brown-headed Cowbird	278
Lincoln's Sparrow		8	Purple Finch	111
Swamp Sparrow		191	House Finch	570
White-throated Sparrow		3,312	Pine Siskin	2 (28)
White-crowned Sparrow		722	American Goldfinch	1,501
Dark-eyed Junco		2,139	Evening Grosbeak*	1 (28)
unspecified sparrows		110	House Sparrow	2,117
			unspecified birds	10 (13)

**Summary Information – Total Species Observed ..... 168**

Total Individual Birds Observed ... **136,130**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 69 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2004

is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

**NOTES: First count record:** Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 5.

**Second count record:** Caspian Tern, 6 – first count record was in 1970; Mourning Warbler, 1 – first count record was in 1992.

**First decade record:** Baird's Sandpiper, 2; Caspian Tern, 6; Mourning Warbler, 1.

**Second decade record:** Hudsonian Godwit, 4.

**Third decade record:** White-rumped Sandpiper, 1; Philadelphia Vireo, 1; Indigo Bunting, 6.

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Great Blue Heron, 237 (2.9); Osprey, 11 (3.7); Bald Eagle, 16 (8); Cooper's Hawk, 2 (3.7); Merlin, 11 (11); Peregrine Falcon, 3 (10); Baird's Sandpiper, 2 (12.5); Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 5 (71.4); Caspian Tern, 6(60); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 115 (8.8); Downy Woodpecker, 349 (2.2); Pileated Woodpecker, 27 (3.9); Blue-headed Vireo, 23 (4.6); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 91 (9.1); Tufted Titmouse, 120 (5.7); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1304 (4.4); Mourning Warbler, 1 (33.3); Chipping Sparrow, 1030 (4.4); Indigo Bunting, 6 (15.4).

**Lowest count since 1935:** None

**Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Brant, 14 (7); Wood Duck, 478 (1.4); Blue-winged Teal, 119 (2.2); Northern Pintail, 258 (3.6); Great Blue Heron, 237 (1.6); Green Heron, 8 (2); Osprey, 11 (2.2); Bald Eagle, 16 (2.3); Cooper's Hawk, 2 (1.5); Merlin, 11 (2.8); Peregrine Falcon, 3 (3); Spotted Sandpiper, 7 (2.3); Hudsonian Godwit, 4 (4); Semipalmated Sandpiper, 4 (3.1); Baird's Sandpiper, 2 (10); Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 5 (5); Caspian Tern, 6 (6); Chimney Swift, 286 (5.3); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 115 (1.9); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 54 (3.9); Downy Woodpecker, 349 (1.5); Northern Flicker, 248 (1.8); Piliated Woodpecker, 27 (2.1); Eastern Phoebe, 94 (2); Blue-headed Vireo, 23 (1.8); Philadelphia Vireo, 1 (3.3); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 91 (4.3); Black-capped Chickadee, 1921 (4.3); Tufted Titmouse, 120 (1.4); White-breasted Nuthatch, 368 (1.6); Brown Creeper, 134 (3); Carolina Wren, 21 (1.6); House Wren, 19 (2.7); Winter Wren, 66 (2.8); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 880 (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 121 (3.6); Swainson's Thrush, 19 (3.2); Hermit Thrush, 115 (2.2); American Robin, 3994 (1.4); Gray Catbird, 123 (3); Tennessee Warbler, 1 (3.3); Orange-crowned Warbler, 12 (3); Nashville Warbler, 21 (3); Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 (2.5); Magnolia Warbler, 10 (2); Black-throated Blue Warbler, 20 (3.3); Black-throated Green Warbler, 27 (4.5); Palm Warbler, 68 (4); Mourning Warbler, 1 (10); Common Yellowthroat, 28 (2.8); Eastern Towhee, 54 (2); Chipping Sparrow, 1030 (2.8); Field Sparrow, 124 (1.6); Fox Sparrow, 21 (4.2); Song Sparrow, 1126 (1.6); Swamp Sparrow, 191 (1.9); White-throated Sparrow, 3312 (1.9); Dark-eyed Junco, 2193 (2.2); Indigo Bunting, 6 (5).

**Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** Ruddy Duck, 32 (6.6); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 18 (62%); Great Back-backed Gull, 56 (36.4%).

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **Kayo Roy**, Maggie Smiley, Alan Smith, John Stevens
3. Wilson, NY: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Brett Ewald, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: Donna DeLeon, **Robert DeLeon**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Donald Brasure, Bill Burch, Morgan Jones, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vanna
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas, Chauncey Wood, Sarah Wood
7. Lowbanks, ON: Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, Edward Fuchs, **Mike Hamilton**, Marg Partridge
8. Fort Erie, ON: Doug Happ, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Patricia Bogan, David Friedrich, Michael Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Susan O'Donnell, Thomas O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, **Don Roberson**, James Rozanski, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Elizabeth Wells, John Welte, Martha Welte
11. Buffalo, NY: Randy Dievendorf, **Alec Humann**, Richard Salembier, Holly Sweeney, Roberta Vallone
12. Lancaster, NY: Marion Bee, Kurt Fox, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, **Mike Morgante**, Gail Seamans
13. Batavia, NY: Doug Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Charles Graney, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Aron Kehlenbeck, Zeke Kehlenbeck, **Jane Mason**, **Max Mason**, Ruth Salvador, Joe Salvador, Paula Stone, Don Thurau
14. Hamburg, NY: Ken Brandes, Tim Goff, Fred Harrington, Mark Leous, Bill Vigyikan, Nancy Vigyikan, **Barbara Walker**, Carolyn Wellington
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Dennis Russell
16. Angola, NY: Patricia Andrle, Robert Andrle, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: John Filor, Jim Pawlicki, Tim Horst, **Robert Wagner**
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Jim Landau, Karen Landau
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ron Andrews, Faye Clancy, Barbara Cronk, James Fegley, Louise Mills, Ginny Norton, Sam Norton, John Raybuck, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, **Elaine Smith**, Carol Stonemetz, James Talbott, Ann Vaclavik, Ann Voss, Denton Willet, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Allen Benton, Marge Benton, Karen Brisley, Ken Brisley, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Sylvia Clark, **Paul Farver**, Andrea Gestwicki, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenberg, Margaret Langer, Terry Mahoney, Dick Miga, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson,
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Julie Heilman, Jesse Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill O'Brien, Linda O'Brien, Dick Stineman, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Nancy Karp, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**, Kirk Vanstrom
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Len DeFrancisco, Paul Hedberg, Julie Heilman, Ruth Lundin, Jean Pigman, Mary Shaul, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Bruce Smalley, Robert Smalley
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Norman Ives, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russell Allen, Ellen Baker, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, **Doris Burton**, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Paulette Copenheaver, Tina Cornell, Paul Culley, Karol Doty, Marjorie Dugan, Edith Fransisco, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Marion McClure, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Nancy Rouse, Mary Shields, Peter Shields, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Barbara Ware, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**

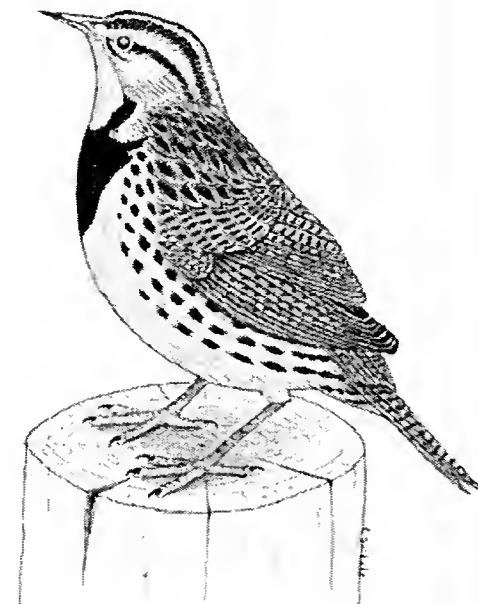
**Total Number of Observers: 212**

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**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## December – January Calendar

**\*\*Christmas Bird Counts are tabulated on page 103.\*\***

**Note: Correction of Date for Hamburg-East Aurora CBC:**

**Jan. 1: Sunday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Mike Zebehazy  
662-6987 or zebs@adelphia.net

**Jan. 11: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Mike Hamilton will present details of the Buffalo Ornithological Society October 9th Count and discuss abundance trends in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. This discussion will be followed by a BOS business meeting.

**Jan. 15: Sunday. Waterfowl Count of the New York State Ornithological Association.** This is the target date, but any date between Saturday, Jan 14, and Sunday, Jan 22, inclusive is acceptable. However, the best count of shing flocks is attained if everyone uses the target date, weather permitting. Contact the Compiler: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com.

**Jan. 25: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Mike Morgan, Wildlife Ecologist for Audubon New York, will discuss Coordinating Grassland Bird Conservation in New York. He will talk about various aspects of grassland management, monitoring, and private lands conservation; as well as briefly discuss the link between this current effort and his master's research, and how that experience (funded in part by BOS) helped prepare him for this role of coordinating Audubon New York's new grasslands program.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 71, No. 12 December, 2005

### THE MONTH: November

by Gerry Rising

The November 2006 averages hardly suggest this month's wild swings of weather. It extended a warm trend: its temperature average of 43.3° F 3° above long term records, continuing six months of above average temperatures. But that temperature ranged from 70° on the 6th to 14° on the 24th, making that Thanksgiving Day the coldest in 100 years. November precipitation of 5.7 inches was 1.8 inches above the norm with a substantial amount of that falling as snow, a total of 17.9 inches, over 10 of them recorded on the 25th. Next to the infamous November of 2000 it was the snowiest month in 15 years.

The month began mild but with significant south or southwest wind. The first freeze of Fall 2005 did not occur until the 16th, the latest in weather history. But that initiated an eleven day period of very cold and snowy weather beginning on the 16th and 17th with over an inch of lake-effect snow. That snow, however, rapidly disappeared and lawns reappeared. In fact the low temperatures only lasted until the 27th and the final three days saw temperatures rising to the high 60s on the 28th and 29th, again eliminating the snow cover.

How did this strange month of Buffalo-type weather affect local ornithology? Recall that Mark Twain told us, "If you don't like the weather in New England, just wait a few minutes." Let's see what the record tells us.

Waterfowl numbers seem quite high. Here are some maxima with the dates on which they were recorded: Snow

Goose 66, 6th; Canada Goose 2000, 29th; Tundra Swan 418, 18th; Wood Duck 550, 11th; Northern Shoveler 592, 11th; scaup species 2000, 30th; Bufflehead 1300, 20th; Hooded Merganser 465, 29th; Ruddy Duck 445, 11th; Red-throated Loon 517, 12th; Common Loon 107, 6th; Dou-

ble-crested Cormorant 1100, 3rd; American Coot 800, 10th — many birds but no correlation that I can identify with weather.

Among rare birds: two Harlequin Ducks, one at Goat Island on the 26th, one in Dunkirk Harbor on the 27th and 30th; a Northern Gannet at Golden Hill State Park on the 5th; 3 Sandhill Cranes at Oak Orchard on the 11th; a Parasitic Jaeger at Golden Hill on the 5th; a Black-headed Gull on the 19th; a California Gull on the 11th and 12th; a Black-legged Kittiwake on the 5th; Cave Swallows a



Northern Saw-whet Owl photographed by Thomas LeBlanc at Allegany State Park on November 12, 2005.



Franklin's Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna at Fort Erie, Ontario on November 11, 2005.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N Main, Suite K55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrlé  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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2006-2008	Gail Seamans Douglas Beattie Lynne Landon Elizabeth Wells

remarkable 42 on the 5th and 56 the next day (see below); a Selasphorus (probable Rufous) Hummingbird on the 27th; 3 Bohemian Waxwings on the 5th; and an Evening Grosbeak on the 13th.

David Junkin banded 23 Saw-whet Owls between November 1 and 14 in Bliss making his season total a quite remarkable 51 of these handsome little owls. Meanwhile Tom LeBlanc, Jordon Whitney, Michael Miecznikowski, Jr., and Jim Taft banded 31 in Allegany SP.

The Cave Swallow continues its enigmatic history here. Until recently this largely Mexican species reached its farthest northern location in Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico. Then in 1999 a small group of them appeared at Point Pelee and since then in most autumns small groups of them migrated east along the north shore of Lake Erie, a few later recorded along the south shore of Lake

Ontario. But this year suddenly they appeared in large numbers. Our counts of 42 and 56 were eclipsed by a Hamlin Beach SP count of 112 on the 4th and then a monster 579 on the 6th. A total of about 800 were recorded in the Rochester area this month. And this year unlike all past years, the birds were flying west.

Weird. Why in the world did they first appear on the NORTH shore of Lake Erie? Why the huge increase in numbers? Why the direction switch? What was the cause? Your guesses are at least as good as mine as I have no idea. Hurricanes seem not to be the culprit as few other southern species were recorded in the north. Strong southwest winds were the rule this fall, but they too seem not to have brought other species. Is some joker traveling to the huge Carlsbad Cavern roost, capturing hundreds of these birds, sneaking them through Canadian customs and releasing them east of Windsor, Ontario? Surely not. Only one piece of evidence seems at least to suggest their spread: their numbers have exploded in Texas and New Mexico. Perhaps like our southern herons, these birds simply wander in the fall. But 800 of them?



*Selasphorus sp [Rufous/Allen's] Hummingbird photographed by Lorraine Sherman in Glenwood, NY (feeder) on November 27, 2005.*

I always enjoy reading verification reports more for the comments than the ID features. Here are a few: "The tiny bills of the three Cackling Geese were about 1/3 the size of the Canada Geese."--Watson. "The three Eared Grebes were all in winter plumage. They were about 20% shorter in length than the 180 Ruddy Ducks in the same [Batavia WWTP] lagoon pond."--Watson. "One brief look...and I was shouting to the others, 'Gannet!'"--D'Anna. About the UB Main Street Hayes Hall merlin: "The original 'rooster' now in 8th winter is back."--Yoerg. "I spotted this bird naked eye and called out 'a probable jaeger' based on overall jizz."--Morgante. "I could not pick out any red there in the field but there appears to be perhaps a single red pixel in the distant digiscoped image that I took of the [California] gull."--D'Anna. "When [the Purple Martin] perched we saw a pale grayish collar and noticed that the crown and back were bluish."--D'Anna. The Purple Martin "was perched near European Starlings on the lighthouse."--Morgante. "I saw one group of six [possible Cave] swallows I did not count because one of that group...appeared to be a Tree Swallow."--D'Anna. "...this hummingbird species will remain the vexing female Rufous-Allen's Hummingbird," despite Dave Suggs' remarkably detailed report.

I hope that some of the excellent photos that accompanied these reports make these pages.

---

**Book Sale:** Thursday March 9<sup>th</sup> – Members Only  
12pm– 6pm and Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday March  
11<sup>th</sup> – 10am - 3pm

This March, the Buffalo Museum of Science will be hosting its first used book sale in almost 20 years! The sale will include a large variety of used books on natural science topics. Spanning many scientific disciplines and many years there is sure to be something for everyone.

Proceeds from the sale will go to support the Research Library of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

Spring Cleaning? If you would like to donate any gently used books to the sale, please do so. We will gladly accept materials to enhance our sale. Feel free to drop them off at our front desk or call the Library for more information 896 5200 x321. Kathy Leacock, Curator of Collections

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	6	66	Shadigee	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	13	6	Dayton	Baird et al
"	15; 20	1; 1	Dayton	Neveu
"	27	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Canada Goose	29	<u>2000</u>	Dayton	Neveu
Cackling Goose	11	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
Brant	5	5	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
"	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Mute Swan	10	4	Cassadaga	Neveu
Tundra Swan	5F	9	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
"	12	24	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	18	418	Chautauqua Lake	Neveu
"	24	123	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	27	25	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Wood Duck	4; 13	<u>187</u> ; 100	Alexander	Dart
"	11	<u>550</u>	Alexander	Dart, Beattie et al
Gadwall	11	70	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	18	56	Celeron	Neveu
American Wigeon	1	37	South Dayton	Neveu
"	8	27	Dayton	Neveu
"	11	104	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	20	14	South Park	Rew
American Black Duck	11	66	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Northern Shoveler	11	592	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20L	1	South Park	Rew
Northern Pintail	11	32	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	5	17	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
"	7	30	Dayton	Neveu
"	11	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	11	27	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Canvasback	30	50	Niagara Falls	Lazarczyk
Redhead	2	4	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	25	11	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	1	50	South Dayton	Neveu
"	8; 18	104; 47	Dayton	Neveu
"	10	43	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	D'Anna
Greater Scaup	2	300	Niagara Falls	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	18	12	Barcelona	Neveu
Lesser Scaup	2	200	Niagara Falls	Watson, Lazarczyk

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	11	30	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Scaup species	30	2000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
* Harlequin Duck	26F	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	27; 30	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Surf Scoter	3	8	Bird I. Pier	Watson, Yoerg
"	5	11; 10	Golden Hill SP	Watson; Morgante
"	20	3	Buffalo Harbor	Rew
White-winged Scoter	3	8	Bird I. Pier	Watson, Yoerg
"	5	38	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
"	6	14	Shadigee	Watson
Black Scoter	3	6	Bird I. Pier	Watson, Yoerg
"	5	20	Golden Hill SP	Morgante, Watson et al
"	19	50	Wilson	D'Anna
Long-tailed Duck	20	100	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
Bufflehead	18	38	Dayton	Neveu
"	12; 19	32; 109	Sheridan	Neveu
"	20	<u>1300</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)
Common Goldeneye	5	30	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
"	8	34	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	19	50	Sheridan	Neveu
Hooded Merganser	18; 23	176; <u>596</u>	Celeron	Neveu
"	11	106	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20; 29	66; 256	Dayton	Neveu
"	19	66	Hanover	Neveu
"	20; 29	120; 75	Allegany SP	Baird
Common Merganser	6	278	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	15;18;20;29	150;170;354;465	Dayton	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	25;27;30	64;75;67	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	1	105	South Dayton	Neveu
"	10;18;23	42;137;127	Celeron	Neveu
"	11	445	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	18	45	Chautauqua Lake	Neveu
Red-throated Loon	5	12	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
"	6	7	Shadigee	Watson
"	12	517	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26	7	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Loon	5	38	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
"	6	107	Shadigee	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	3;10;18;23	85;192;31;21	Celeron	Neveu
Horned Grebe	12; 19	16; 29	Sheridan	Neveu
"	6	44	Hamburg	Morgante
"	18	31	Barcelona	Neveu
"	27; 30	49; 34	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	5	3	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
"	6	2	Shadigee	Watson
"	20	1	Ft. Niagara SP	S&T O'Donnell (BOS)
"	23	2	Celeron	Neveu
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	11	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
* <u>Northern Gannet</u>	5	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morgante, Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	3	<u>1100</u>	La Salle Park, Bflo.	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Great Blue Heron	5; 27; 30	9; 5; 8	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	6	11	Hanover	Neveu
Black-cr. Night-Heron	6; 20	2; 1	South Park, Bflo.	Rew, Walker; Rew
Turkey Vulture	1; 3; 7L	2; 1; 2	Lancaster	Morgante
"	6	1	Alfred	Brooks
Bald Eagle	1	1 ad	South Dayton	Neveu
"	2; 12	1 imm; 1 imm	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	3; 28	1 imm; 1 imm	Sheridan	Neveu
"	6	1	Shadigee	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7; 8; 29	2 ad; 2 ad; 2 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	10	1 imm	Chautauqua	Neveu
"	19; 30	1 imm; 1 ad	Hanover	Neveu
"	28	1 imm	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	28	1 imm	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	28	1 imm	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	29	10	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Rough-legged Hawk	5 - 28	10 recs; 4 max	L. Ontario plain & Southern Tier	Several observers
Merlin	<u>2;9;14;23</u>	3; 4; 4; 3	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	3; 7	1; 2	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	<u>13</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg
"	<u>26</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
American Coot	3;10;18; 23	600; 800; 700; 700	Celeron	Neveu
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	11	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
Black-bellied Plover	5; 6L	1; 1	Somerset	Morgante; Watson et al
Killdeer	28	1	Alexander	Dart
Greater Yellowlegs	5	1	Somerset	Watson et al
"	7	2	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
Spotted Sandpiper	<u>3; 7</u>	1; 1	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Sanderling	7	3	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	10L	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Dunlin	5; 6	6; 4	Somerset	Morgante; Watson et al
"	7	3	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
* <u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	5	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morgante et al
* Franklin's Gull	6F; 7	1	La Salle Park, Bflo.	Morgante; Yoerg
"	10;11;19	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Little Gull	5F	1 ad	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
"	5F	1	Barcelona	Neveu
"	7	2	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	12	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	13	2	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg
"	20 - 26	6 max	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson et al
"	21	1	Buffalo	Hess
* <u>Black-headed Gull</u>	19	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Bonaparte's Gull	19	<u>7000</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
* <u>California Gull</u>	11;12	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Watson et al
Iceland Gull	11F	1	Niagara Falls	Potter
"	19	2	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	5	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson et al (BOS)

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	1	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
Lesser Black-b. Gull	11F	4	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
* Black-leg. Kittiwake	5	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morgante
Common Tern	6	1	Buffalo	Morgante
"	16	1	Tifft NP	Andrle
Snowy Owl	29; 30	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Long-eared Owl	23;25;27	1; 1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Short-eared Owl	16; 25	1; 2	Porter	D'Anna; Sharon
"	28	3	Sheldon	D&S Junkin
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	1 - 12	2 max	Allegany SP	LeBlanc et al
"	1 - 14	6 max(Nov. 5)	Wethersfield	D Junkin
Eastern Phoebe	19	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	20	1	Evans	Andrle
"	23L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Shrike	5 - 30	12 recs;2 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Common Raven	1; 2	1; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	8; 11	2; 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	28	3	Alma	Beattie
Horned Lark	5	20	Golden Hill SP	Morgante, Watson et al
"	18;25;26	24;23;13	South Dayton	Neveu
"	26	115	Villenova	Neveu
Purple Martin	5L	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morgante et al
N. Rough-w. Swallow	13L	4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg
* <u>Cave Swallow</u>	5	42	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morgante et al
"	6	56	Wilson	D'Anna
<u>Selasphorus</u> sp.[Rufous/Allen's]	27	1	Glenwood (f)	D&D Suggs
Carolina Wren	6 - 19	10 recs;2 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	8	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Eastern Bluebird	6	11	Hanover	Neveu
"	4 - 27	7 other recs; 6 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Hermit Thrush	5	3	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
"	27	1	Wilson	Potter
Wood Thrush	11;12;13L	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Gray Catbird	27	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
Northern Mockingbird	5	1	Wilson	Pawlicki, Watson
"	5	1	Somerset	Pawlicki, Watson
"	6 - 27	1 - 3	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	19	1	Eden	Andrle
"	30	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
American Pipit	6	14	Yates	Watson
"	7; 18	5; 1	Dayton	Neveu
"	18	42	South Dayton	Neveu
* <u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	5	3	Golden Hill SP	Morgante
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	2	Hanover	Neveu
Chipping Sparrow	6; 8	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Morgante; Andrle
Field Sparrow	6	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
Fox Sparrow	2	1	Hanover	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	1	Fredonia	Neveu
"	5	1	Amherst	Pawlicki, Watson
"	8	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	8	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
"	24	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	25; 26	1; 1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	25 - 30	1	South Wales	Bee
Swamp Sparrow	27	1	Iroquois NWR	S&T O'Donnell
White-cr. Sparrow	15	1	Silver Creek (f)	Neveu
Snow Bunting	5	125	Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	100	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	20	180	Fort Niagara	Watson et al (BOS)
"	20	110	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-w. Blackbird	18; 26	37; 7	South Dayton	Neveu
"	26	3	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
Eastern Meadowlark	6	1	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Rusty Blackbird	2; 8	200; 200	Alden	Wolfling
"	6	150	Buckhorn I. SP	S&T O'Donnell
Common Grackle	15	2	Silver Creek (f)	Neveu
"	21	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Brown-head. Cowbird	22	1	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
Purple Finch	18; 30	2; 2	Wilson (f)	Potter
* White-w. Crossbill	18F	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Pine Siskin	6; 27; 28	50; 20; 20	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Evening Grosbeak	13F	1	Orchard Park	Morgante

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**275**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**011**

**Total for the year 2005:**

**286**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## November 20, 2005 BOS/GOS Niagara River Field Trip By Mike Hamilton

Nine GOS birders lead by Bob Spahn joined about the same number of BOS birders at Old Fort Niagara lead by yours truly and birded along the Niagara River all the way to Fort Erie on a beautiful sunny day.

At Old Fort Niagara we had 3 Red-throated Loons, 1 Common Loon, a White-winged Scoter, a jaeger species, an interesting slightly darker mantled large gull which might have been a Greater Black-back/ Herring Gull hybrid and fly-over Snow Buntings.

At Lewiston there were about 20 Great Blue Herons and a couple of hundred Bonaparte's Gulls but no Little Gull. On the Canadian side at Sir Adam Beck several adult Iceland Gulls and at least two Thayer's Gulls. At the Enginee-

rium Building lots of gulls but nothing unusual. The same was true at the International Control Gates.

We then proceeded to Fort Erie to look for the Franklin's, Black-headed and Little Gulls, all of which had been seen the preceding week. There were an unusual number of gulls along the way and at Fort Erie, more than I have ever seen in that stretch, mostly Bonaparte's Gulls. The density was particularly high between the International Railway Bridge and Nichol's Marina. However, the only rarity we saw was an adult Little Gull. The trip fragmented at Fort Erie with different groups retracing different parts of the route in search of yet unseen rarities.

# Buffalo Ornithological Society President's 2005 Annual Report

Terry L. Yonker

When I was first elected President of BOS, I proposed a set of goals for the Society. The following is a list of those goals and the actions that were taken to achieve them.

1. Revise our meeting format to include one program meeting and one business meeting per month. There was clear resistance to the change even though committees prospered under the change. The meeting format reverted to the old format in 2004.
2. Review our committee structure and make changes that improve functionality. A series of bylaw amendments were introduced in 2004 with the result being the consolidation of the Research and Data Acquisition Committees and the creation of a Finance Committee.
3. Improve communications within and outside the Society. We created an ad hoc Communications Committee chaired by Dave Suggs to review the phone tree, dial-a-bird, and other forms of communication, including a website. A website was developed and is functional.
4. Improve research focus. Several projects were undertaken including the Bonaparte's Gull Study on the Niagara River and roosting study on Lake Ontario. New statistical techniques were employed by Bob Deleon and Brendan Klick to tease out important information on migration trends from past migration counts. A new Shorebird Count was established by Terry Yonker and Lynne Landon and has been conducted for the past five years. The traditional April, May and October counts continued to be ably led by Mike Hamilton and Bob Deleon. And finally we made bylaw changes to combine the Research and Data Acquisition Committees to promote additional research and data utilization.
5. Review and update field trip and program offerings. Our field trips continued and participation remained high. Programs were well attended and very informative thanks to the efforts of Bill Watson. Being planned are several out of study area field trips to Michigan, Nebraska, and downstate.
6. Review BOS status as a charitable, nonprofit, and tax exempt organization. This was accomplished and it was determined that BOS was currently in compliance with IRS and state charities regulations. Bylaws changes established a Finance Committee that will have responsibility for developing BOS budgets and managing the Axtell/McVey/Wendling Fund.
7. Investigate the feasibility of establishing a bird observatory within the Niagara River Corridor IBA. BOS established the Niagara Corridor Bird Observatory Committee, which has yet to meet. Efforts were made to include a bird observatory/ecology center in the settlement agreement with New York Power Authority without success. The Observatory Committee is now being reactivated.

Other highlights from the past four years include:

1. Preparation of an extensive response to the USFWS and DEC EIS opposing unlimited authority to control Double-crested Cormorants.
2. Long-term representation of BOS in settlement proceedings related to the licensing of the Robert Moses Power Plant.
3. Representation of BOS in the drafting of the Niagara River IBA Conservation Plan.
4. Complete Council review of the BOS Constitution and adoption of amendments to the Constitution by BOS.
5. Celebration of BOS's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004.
6. Initiative to publish a new book on the birds of Western New York by D'Anna and Morgante.
7. Publication of the Seasonal Checklist of Birds.
8. Initiative to sponsor the restoration of the Peterson films at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute

Business left uncompleted includes the establishment of a Niagara River Bird Observatory, a complete revision of the BOS Constitution including the establishment of a BOS Bird Records Committee, establishment of a standing Communications Committee, and changes in the purpose of the Council (possibly as a Board of Directors).

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

## A Feathered Needle in a Haystack: A Fascinating Journey into the Re-Discovery of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker

Tuesday, February 28th, 6:30 PM

Free  
Open to the Public

Buffalo Museum of Science Auditorium  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
(Best Street exit from Route 33)



*Hope is the thing with feathers  
that perches in the soul –  
and sings the tunes without the words –  
and never stops at all.  
– Emily Dickinson*

Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers from the collection of the  
Buffalo Museum of Science.

Speaker Ron Rohrbaugh, Director of Cornell University's Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Research Project, will take us behind the scenes of this very current continuing news story, the historic search for the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker in the Big Woods of Arkansas. Just when everyone thought this most regal of woodpeckers was gone for good, a persistent search involving thousands of volunteer hours reveals its existence. Ron will discuss the search and share the rich history and ecological saga of North America's largest woodpecker.

Reservations not required.

Program presented by  
The Buffalo Audubon Society,  
Buffalo Museum of Science and  
Buffalo Ornithological Society.

Further information at 896-5200 or  
[www.buffalamuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalamuseumofscience.org)



## ACTUAL & PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR THE YEARS 2004 - 2007 FOR THE BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following is the budget and actual for the BOS fiscal year 2004-2005 and the proposed budgets for 2006 and 2007. The 2004-2005 budget is for 15 months due to the transition to a fiscal year ending on 12/31. 2006 will be the first year with the BOS on a calendar year. Although the Society must vote on the 2006 budget **only**, it is helpful to anticipate future needs and/or the spreading of expenses over more than one year. To this end the 2007 preliminary budget is included as a guide only and will need to be revised and voted on next year.

### **INCOME:**

	2004-2005		2006	2007
	Budget	Actual*	P. Budget	P. Budget
Opening Bank Balance:	4901.62	4901.62	4590.30	2589.37
Dues:	3800.00	3790.00	3800.00	3800.00
Date Guide Sales	0.00	53.00	0.00	0.00
Special Membership Premiums	500.00	445.00	500.00	500.00
Misc. Income	20.00	10.11	20.00	20.00
Seasonal Checklist Sales	50.00	160.83	50.00	50.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>4370.00</b>	<b>4458.94</b>	<b>4370.00</b>	<b>4370.00</b>

### **EXPENSE:**

General operating expenses	1250.00	476.74	1000.00	1000.00
Contributions	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Speakers Fund (reimbursable expense for travel, lodging)	100.00	175.00	100.00	100.00
Vaughn Lecture Series (support)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Prothonotary	3750.00	3348.18	3250.00	3250.00
Meeting Room contribution to Science Museum	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
2009 Banquet Fund (reserved)	345.93	320.93	620.93	920.93
R. Exp. for Delegates to An'l Meeting of NYS Ornithological Soc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Young People's Weekend	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
BOS Graphics Coordination and Update	300.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Section Map Project	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
BOS Seasonal Checklist	0.00	49.41	0.00	0.00
Beardslee & Mitchell update (support for reimbursable expense)	50.00	0.00	300.00	500.00
<b>Total expense:</b>	<b>6895.93</b>	<b>4770.26</b>	<b>6370.93</b>	<b>6470.93</b>
<b>Ending bank balance (general operating contingency):</b>	<b>2375.69</b>	<b>4590.30</b>	<b>2589.37</b>	<b>488.44</b>

*Submitted by the Budget Committee: Thomas O'Donnell, Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker, Gerry Rising, Mike Hamilton, Jerry Lazarczyk  
Adopted at the 12/14/05 Meeting*

\* Actual October 12, 2004 through December 14, 2005

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## **February – March Calendar**

**BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Feb. 8: Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. John Black will discuss "The quantification of birds on weather radar"

**Feb. 22: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**Feb. 26: Sunday. Niagara County, New York, Owl Trip.** Meet at 1:00 PM near the Toys R Us entrance at the Summit Park Mall on Williams Road just south of Niagara Falls Blvd. in the Town of Wheatfield. Leader: Chuck Rosenburg (434-9403, crosenburg@adelphia.net, cell phone: 622-3278).

**February 28: Tuesday. At 6:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. The Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.** The Buffalo Audubon Society, The Buffalo Museum of Science and the BOS are sponsoring this event. This will be a celebration of the most exciting natural history event in over 100 years: the rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Join Ron Rohrbaugh, Director of Cornell's Ivory-billed Woodpecker Research Project as he takes us behind the scenes in the historic search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in the Big Woods of Arkansas. Admission is FREE.

**March 25: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip** for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or dannapoter@wzrd.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 1 January, 2006

### THE MONTH: December

by Mike DeSha

According to the National Weather Service in Buffalo, December reversed the warm trend that had been in place since May 2005 so that the temperature this month averaged 27.1 °F, about 2.5 degrees colder than normal (my emphasis). In *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, Beard-sleeve and Mitchell reported the average December temperature as 27.2 °F. It is perhaps not surprising that the average has shifted higher by 2.4 degrees since the publication of their book in 1965. The first three weeks of the month were cold. They averaged 7.5 degrees below normal but the milder weather of the following ten days averaged 8 degrees above normal, leaving barely enough snow on the ground for the Christmas holiday. The highest temperature of 46 °F occurred on December 28 and the lowest temperature of 0 °F occurred on December 13, which was one degree warmer than the record for this date.

The month was quite cloudy, with only 17% of possible sunshine and on 12 of the last 16 days no sun whatsoever was recorded. In Buffalo, no day this month received more than six inches of snow and the monthly total was about five inches below normal.

At least a trace of snowfall occurred on 18 of the first 21 days, but less than an inch for the last ten days of the month. The total snowfall of 20.3 inches was over 5 inches below normal for December. Lake effect snow events affecting the Southtowns and Southern Tier occurred during the first three weeks, but only on December 16 and 17 did the snow move northward to affect the Buffalo region, dropping 6.5 inches during the two-day period. (Meteorological data provided by the National Weather Service Buffalo office.)

The cold days of early December drove the waterfowl away from Cattaraugus County where I live, as there were no Canada Geese and few other waterfowl

found on the Cattaraugus County Bird Club's Christmas Count held on December 17. In contrast, waterfowl were varied and abundant on the Niagara River, Lake Erie at Dunkirk and Lake Ontario. On the 28<sup>th</sup> Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson spotted 4 white-phase and 2 of the rarer blue-phase Snow Geese at Lakeside Beach State Park. On the Christmas Bird Count of December 18, Jim Pawlicki and Willie D'Anna found a Trumpeter Swan in the Niagara River rapids above the falls at Niagara Falls, Ontario. The swan sported an "obvious field mark" in that it was tagged with a black-numbered yellow tag indicating that it had fledged at Wye Marsh, Ontario, in connection with the Ontario Trumpeter Swan Reintroduction Program. In addition to the obvious field mark, D'Anna wrote, "...this swan was identified by its very long sloping head profile formed by a long bill and forehead showing a virtually straight line with no noticeable concavity. ...There was no yellow in the black loral skin." Up to 175 Tundra Swans remained in the vicinity of Beaver Island State Park through the 17<sup>th</sup>.

On December 4, Bill Watson counted 175 Northern Shovelers at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. On the same CBC that they found the Trumpeter Swan, D'Anna and Pawlicki found at least 5 Northern Shovelers on the Niagara River near the Dufferin Islands Creek outlet.



Immature male Surf Scoter photographed by Willie D'Anna at Fort Erie, Ontario on December 10, 2005.

1	<b>The Month</b> by Mike DeSha
3	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> by Bruce Chilton
6	<b>Peregrine Falcons</b> by Bill Burch
7	<b>Prothonotary Index</b> by Karen Landau
8	<b>BOS Calendar</b>

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson

Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

President: Thomas O'Donnell  
V. President: Michael Morgante  
Treasurer: Gerald Lazarczyk  
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#### Council:

2004-2006	Bob DeLeon Mike Desha Jim Landau
2005-2007	Mike Galas Jerry Lazarczyk Gail Seamans
2006-2008	Douglas Beattie Lynne Landon Elizabeth Wells

D'Anna's photo included in his verification form shows a direct comparison of a Mallard with a female Shoveler and a male Shoveler in eclipse plumage, each significantly smaller than the Mallard.

Jerry Lazarczyk reported approximately 12,000 scaup species off Grand Island on December 23. I have just reread with greater interest the article in the January 2005 issue of *The Prothonotary* about Scaup decline, which was very pessimistic. We can hope that the 12,000 scaup seen by Lazarczyk may be significant as an indication of possible recovery. In *Bull's Birds of New York State*, which also acknowledges a decline in numbers, the previous record maximum number of individuals on the Niagara River was reported as 6,000, so this sighting doubles the record number cited there.

Great Cormorants are seen regularly on the Atlantic Coast in winter, but it is one of the rarer species to visit our area. Numbers seem to be increasing along the coast and it is being reported more frequently in the Hudson River area. There were no verified sightings of this species here until after the production of the Seasonal Checklist, which was closed to records after December of 2000. On December 4, Thomas Bartlett and his group from Ohio spotted an individual of this species feeding where the Niagara River enters Lake Ontario. In his verification, Bartlett reported that he is quite familiar with the species, having seen it in Maine, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and along the east coast. He described this individual as a, "Large, glossy black cormorant with whitish throat and white feathers in the flank area but not on the rump or vent area. The bird's neck appeared thicker and the overall plumage much darker than Double-crested Cormorants we had observed upriver earlier in the morning." Perhaps the range of this species is expanding into this region.

Merlins continue to roost at the University of Buffalo's Main Street Campus. Peter Yoerg visited the campus seven times between December 9 and December 27. On December 13, he counted a maximum of six individuals. Yoerg



*Yellow Palm Warbler (D. p. hypochrysea) photographed by Willie D'Anna at Niagara Falls, Ont. on December 18, 2005.*

and Henderson found a Peregrine Falcon in Buffalo. Fran Rew and Audrey Horbett saw an adult male Peregrine Falcon flying along the Niagara River at Fort Erie, Ontario.

An American Pipit, identified by Declan Troy and Ron Pittaway, flew over the Niagara River from the area of the Adam Beck Power Plant to the New York State side. Pittaway heard the "sharp double-noted 'tsip-it' call" and noted that it "lacked the Horned Lark's black underside of the tail that contrasts with its whitish belly."

In *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, Beardslee and Mitchell wrote, "Most of the birds in our area in December are either permanent resident or winter visitant species. There are, however, always a few laggards that remain until more severe winter weather or a dwindling food supply force them to move farther south." Lagging was clearly the case with some Fox Sparrows as there were reports of their lingering well past the Verification Date Guide's December 2 date for last appearance of this species. I personally enjoyed two that showed up at my feeder on December 6 with one staying until December 11. Nancy Vigyikan reported a Fox Sparrow on her patio on December 11 and 12. The rusty tail and heavily striped breast of this large sparrow always make it a treat for me when it visits in the spring or fall. Richard Salembier spotted an Eastern Phoebe on December 24 at Amherst State Park in Williamsville. Again on the CBC of December 18, Vicki Rothman, Betsy Potter, Willie D'Anna and Jim Pawlicki saw a "Yellow" Palm Warbler hanging around the shoreline of the Niagara River south of the control gates in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

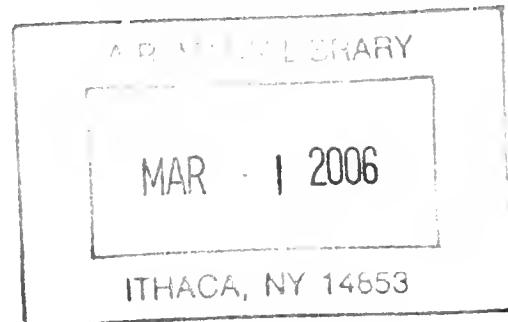
Writing for *The Prothonotary* is a new undertaking for me. Joseph Thill has retired from his spot in the rotation of writers for "The Month." I want to personally thank Joe for his years of service for *The Prothonotary*. I always enjoyed reading his "take" on the months' activities. I hope that I can carry on in his tradition.

Editors note: I want to thank Joe Thill for his many, many years of writing *The Month* and other articles for this newsletter. Although Joe will not be writing a "regular" Month article, he'll still be an occasional contributor to *The Prothonotary*. Thanks again Joe.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.



<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	5	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	11	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	28	4 white, 2 blue	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
Mute Swan	28	4 ad	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	1	2	Celeron	Neveu
"	3	50	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	3 - 17	6 recs; 175 max	Beaver I. SP	Several observers
"	4	6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	23	96	Strawberry I.	Landau, Chilton; Watson
Gadwall	1	1	Celeron	Neveu
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	24	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
American Wigeon	4	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
American Black Duck	4; 24	122; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Watson, Pawlicki
"	22; 28	76; 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Mallard	4	900	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	4	310	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	4	8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Redhead	7 - 31	10 max	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	17	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Lesser Scaup	4	3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Scaup species	17; 23; 25	1500; <u>12000</u> ; 3000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Harlequin Duck	3	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna
"	3 - 22; 3	4 recs; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Mosher
Surf Scoter	24	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
White-winged Scoter	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Black Scoter	1 - 22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	10	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
Long-tailed Duck	7; 10	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Mosher
"	18	2	Niagara River, Bflo	Landau, Chilton
Hooded Merganser	1	600	Celeron	Neveu
"	15	100	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	10	1000	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	10; 15	1000; 252	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	1	19	Celeron	Neveu
"	3; 7	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Neveu; Neveu
"	3	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	135	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	10; 16	1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24	4	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
Wild Turkey	24	62	Evans	Andrle
Red-throated Loon	17	31	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	63	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Common Loon	1	4	Chautauqua	Neveu
"	3	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Pied-billed Grebe	8; 22	5; 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	9	1	Black Rock Canal	Lazarczyk
Horned Grebe	3	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7 - 31	68 max	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	3	1	Buckhorn I. SP	S&T O'Donnell
* <u>Great Cormorant</u>	8	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Bartlett
Great Blue Heron	3	14	Queenston (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
"	15	12	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bald Eagle	3	1 imm, 1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Neveu
"	3	1	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
"	3	1 ad	Sheridan	Neveu
"	3; 10	2 ad; 1 imm	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	3; 6	1 ad; 1 imm	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	8	1 ad	Strawberry I.	Yoerg; Landau, Chilton
Rough-legged Hawk	11	2	South Dayton	Neveu
"	15	1	Glenwood	Lazarczyk
"	28	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Merlin	<u>9 - 27</u>	6 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	<u>24</u>	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
American Coot	1	1000	Celeron	Neveu
"	4; 5	1; 2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
* Purple Sandpiper	3	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Little Gull	3	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	2	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	24	1	Lewiston	S O'Donnell
Bonaparte's Gull	1	17	Celeron	Neveu
"	13	1000	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	17	1000	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
Iceland Gull	24; 27	1; 1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	3	5	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	3	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24; 28	1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Glaucous Gull	3	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	24; 27	1; 1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Snowy Owl	28	1	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-eared Owl	24	4	Porter	S&T O'Donnell
Eastern Phoebe	<u>24</u>	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Shrike	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	23	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	24	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
Horned Lark	24	100	Yates	S&T O'Donnell

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	100	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
Tufted Titmouse	1 - 31	2	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	3 - 14	2	Franklinville (f)	DeSha
"	11	3	Silver Creek (f)	Neveu
"	14;17;20	1; 1; 1	Alden (f)	Wolfling
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	12 recs;2 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Winter Wren	16	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	3	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna, Potter
Eastern Bluebird	4	2	Hanover	Neveu
"	10	3	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	23; 24	4; 3	Sinking Ponds	Holmes; Morgante
"	24	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
Hermit Thrush	4 - 17	1	Wilson	Potter et al
"	27	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
"	28	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
American Robin	31	500	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Lazarczyk
Gray Catbird	23	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	24	1	Hanover	Neveu
Northern Mockingbird	24	1	Deveaux Woods SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	24	2	Joseph Davis SP	S&T O'Donnell
American Pipit	<u>22</u>	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Pittaway
Yellow-r. Warbler	3	1	Buckhorn I. SP	S&T O'Donnell
Amer. Tree Sparrow	10	67	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	25	40	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Chipping Sparrow	8 - 30	4 recs;all 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Field Sparrow	11	3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Fox Sparrow	<u>6; 7 - 11</u>	2; 1	Franklinville (f)	DeSha
"	<u>17 - 31</u>	1	Orchard Park	M&W Zebehazy
"	<u>19; 20</u>	1	Orchard Park	Vigyikans
Swamp Sparrow	24; 25	1; 1	Sinking Ponds	Morgante; Holmes
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
White-cr. Sparrow	7	1	Lancaster (f)	Morgante
"	7	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	27	4	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Bethany	Beattie
Lapland Longspur	22	2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Snow Bunting	10	10	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	19	16	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	24	1000	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1000	Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
Brown-head. Cowbird	12	4	Tonawanda (f)	Hess
Pine Siskin	1	2	Franklinville (f)	DeSha
"	1 - 31	55 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:				286
Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:				003
<u>Total for the year 2005:</u>				<b>289</b>
<b>Statisticians' Note:</b> If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.				

### ADDENDA

2002				
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	6/19	1,1	Carroll	DeFrancisco
2004				
<u>Northern Shoveler</u>	<u>12/21</u>	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
2005				
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	5/22	1	<u>Westfield</u>	DeFrancisco
<u>Northern Goshawk</u>	7/6	1	Allegany SP	Hess
* <u>Whooping Crane</u>	4/6	3	Ripley HW	Sundell, Wasilewski
<u>Piping Plover</u>	8/21	1	Rockpoint PP	Andrle
<u>American Avocet</u>	8/6	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Simon
<u>Spotted Sandpiper</u>	<u>11/27</u>	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Iron
<u>Acadian Flycatcher</u>	5/5	2	Mina	Berry
	7/3-7	1	Allegany SP	Hess
* <u>Dickcissel</u>	6/20	6	Somerset	Morgante

## OUR PEREGRINE FALCONS HAVE A GOOD YEAR IN 2005

*by Bill Burch*

Our Hillsborough, New Brunswick, female peregrine is now seven years old and this is the seventh year for her and her mate in the Statler Towers nest box in Buffalo.

Last year the female fought an intruder while egg-laying, and so laid only two eggs, but these gave two fledglings. This year she laid five eggs. All hatched, but one chick died.

The four surviving chicks were banded June 3, at the age of three weeks. Three were males and one was female. Banding was done by Mark Kandel of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Connie Adams, new Senior Wildlife Biologist of the DEC. Assisting them was Jim Landau of the BOS. (Kandel now has been transferred to the Allegany office of the DEC as Natural Resources Manager.)

The four young peregrines did well and were seen at least a month after fledging.

The peregrine pair on Goat Island in Niagara Falls also had a good year. They had three chicks, two females and one male. These fledged on July 22. Connie Adams watched them stooping on gulls and cormorants on August 1. This nest in the cliff is occupied by a female and her mate who took it over in 2003. She was hatched in Pittsburgh, PA, in 2001.

### **Gordon Bellerby**

Gordon Bellerby died at his home in Niagara-on-the-Lake after some months of illness. He was, for many years, an active member of the Toronto Ornithological Club and lived in Toronto. After moving to Niagara-on-the-Lake he became interested in Niagara River gulls, became a very helpful gull expert, and took many birders on gull trips along the river. Gordon was a member of the Buffalo Ornithological Society since 1985.

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by Karen Landau

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## March – April Calendar

**BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

- Feb. 28: Tuesday. At 6:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science. The Search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.** Join Ron Rohrbaugh, Director of Cornell's Ivory-billed Woodpecker Research Project as he takes us behind the scene in the historic search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.
- Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawkwatch at Lakeside Memorial Park** (off Camp Rd. between Rt. 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Contact Jim Landau: (941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com).
- Mar. 8: Meeting at 7:30 PM at Buffalo Museum of Science.** Sarah Musilli, Emily Caruana, and Mike Hurban: N. Saw-whet Owl migration.
- Mar. 22: Meeting at 7:30 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Heidi Kennedy will discuss Marsh Bird Monitoring in New York State.
- Mar. 25: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip** for early spring migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637; dannapotter@wzrd.com. Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport.
- Apr. 2: Sunday. Oak Orchard Swamps Field Trip.** Meet 8:00 am (*daylight saving time*) at Cayuga Pool parking lot along Route 77 in Iroquois NWR. Leader: Gail W. Seamans (585-937-5105 or Gails@netacc.net).
- Apr. 9: Sunday. April Count.** All BOS members should participate. Contact Coordinator: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com).
- Apr. 12: Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Jacalyn Perry will discuss bird rehabilitation.
- Apr. 23: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip.** This annual trip to the Hawk Watch will be led by Mike Zebehazy (BOS) and Bob Spahn (GOS). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 AM. The group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay (Monroe County) for a 9:30 AM rendezvous with the GOS. Contact Mike at zebs@adelphia.net or 662-6987.
- Apr. 26: Vaughan Lecture** will be presented by Kimberly Bostwick from Cornell, "When your wing is your musical instrument: the fascinating story of the Club-winged Manakin."

# The PROTHONOTARY



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Volume 72, No. 2 February, 2006

### THE MONTH: January

by Jerry Lazarczyk

It was the warmest January in 56 years for Buffalo. January will be remembered as one of the most benign and open winter months in history. Our normal sieges of cold and snow were almost absent and bare ground was the rule. A strong Pacific flow dominated our region and the entire nation in January. A new record of 13 straight days of no sun from December 24 through January 6 eclipsed a record, which stood since 1902 and was tied in 1920.

The average temperature of 34.9 °F was a remarkable 10.4 degrees above the norm, placing this month 4<sup>th</sup> warmest in the 136 years of record. Only 1932 (37.2 °F), 1880 (36.7 °F) and 1950 (35.0 °F) were warmer. Twenty-eight of the 31 days were on the mild side, many substantially so. The warmth was consistent, but only one record was established: the 50-degree reading on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

Precipitation was in the normal range at 3.67 inches. The vast majority of it fell as rain. Snowfall was pretty much restricted to the tail end of these rain events with minor coatings on the 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, all of which melted off in a day or so.

The month started with a mild, overcast week with the 5<sup>th</sup> capping off a record 13-day stretch of sunless skies. After a brief cold shot on the 6-7<sup>th</sup>, temperatures soared into the 50's and lower 60's during the second week with ample sunshine bringing a taste of spring. Deep lows moving to our North on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 17-18<sup>th</sup> brought some drenching rains that ended as snow. This shot of winter was short-lived however as temperatures bounced back into the

50's by the 20<sup>th</sup>. Winter made a brief return on the 25<sup>th</sup> with some wet snow but there were some heavy accumulations across higher elevations of the Southern Tier and ski areas. This was fol-

lowed with soaking rains which reached an inch in the Buffalo area causing area rivers to flood.

Sunshine for the month totaled 29 percent of the possible, close to the normal of 31 per cent. Although fairly limited, it was a vast improvement from December and January's first week. Five days were mostly sunny while 20 remained mostly cloudy.

The consistent mildness did not allow any ice to form on Lake Erie. In fact, some local shore ice in the western basin early in the month melted away. The lake could still develop a good ice cover in February if the pattern changes. If not, it would be the third winter in the last nine with virtually no ice on Lake Erie after just two occasions in the previous 50 years.



Northern Hawk Owl photographed by Willie D'Anna on January 15, 2006 near Lyndonville, NY.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

**Society Officers:**

President: Thomas O'Donnell  
V. President: Michael Morgante  
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The Northern Hawk Owl (formerly known as the American Hawk Owl then Hawk-Owl) was certainly the news of the month, if not the year. Not only did it draw fascinated birders from around the nation, it also created considerable controversy flaming media publicity thereby bringing even more visitors. Current records indicate that this species last recorded in our area in late December 1962 through early January 1963. Beardslee & Mitchell report sightings back to the late 1800's and consider this bird a sporadic rare Winter Visitant. The Northern Hawk Owl is a very exceptional visitor whose arrival was first noted January 7th when Paul Schnell, Anne Terninko and Mike Crane banded and released the owl in Yates, NY. The visit lasted at least through the end of the month.

"Clear thinking" photographers brought mice

to feed the Northern Hawk Owl, and with immediate results: the owl took the prey. Of course some of the commercially obtained mice escaped the owl and some found shelter in the homes of nearby rueful neighbors. TV coverage was general, focusing on the event. Newsprint attempted to be factual but also looked for the weird twist.

An exceptional sighting of a Varied Thrush by Mike Zebehazy in Hamburg was made on the January 1st Hamburg-East Aurora Christmas Bird Count. Only four individual Varied Thrushes are in the BOS Noteworthy Record Report database. This species is not mentioned in *Birds of the Niagara Frontier* by Beardslee & Mitchell, which covers from the late 1800's to 1965. In the "Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region Supplement" by Mitchell and Andrle, the Varied Thrush is mentioned as accidental very rare and lists two of the records in the BOS database.

Turkey Vulture is an exceptional visitor to WNY in January and only four recent January records are in the BOS database. No January records are mentioned in Beardslee & Mitchell. However, sharp-eyed Fran Rew verified the sighting while birding with Audrey Horbett who also saw the

vulture. Gerry Rising and Debbie Sharon also reported Turkey Vulture on different days and locations.

Trumpeter Swans, seen January 1st near Fort Erie, were documented by Fran Rew. The Trumpeters were reported in December, 2005 by Watson, then by D'Anna (twice) later that month. Trumpeter Swans are an exceptional sighting in January – four recent and no old records are found in the BOS database.

Eared Grebe was documented by Doug Beattie and Elaine Dart at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant – a very rare species for this month. The BOS winter records contain only five individuals while Beardslee & Mitchell mention several winter records but no January sightings.

Harlequin Duck is a very rare find although numerous BOS winter records exist. Beardslee & Mitchell call the Harlequin Duck an irregular very rare, and transient and winter visitant, although several records are described.

An Eastern Phoebe was observed by Sal Salembier on January 2nd in Amherst State Park, fly-catching. This species is a very rare visitor in January – only one record exists in the BOS database. Beardslee & Mitchell makes no mention of the Eastern Phoebe in winter.

A first-basic plumage female Pine Warbler was discovered at Dufferin Islands by Dick Rosche. It continued to be seen well into January and was photo documented by Willie D'Anna and independently identified by Betsy Potter and Jerry Lazarczyk. Five January Pine Warblers are in the BOS database. The BOS Seasonal Checklist of Birds considers a January Pine Warbler very rare.

The Fox Sparrow is considered a very rare bird in January according to the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds yet that is when Mike Zebehazy and others saw it. The BOS database has only 6 records for January. Beardslee & Mitchell consider the Fox Sparrow (formerly Eastern Fox Sparrow) an occasional very rare Winter Visitant and mentions only two January records.

(continued on page 15)



Trumpeter Swan photographed by Willie D'Anna on January 22, 2006 on the Niagara River, north of Fort Erie, Ontario.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cackling Goose	15	1	Squaw I.	Landau, Landon
Mute Swan	1 - 22	9 recs;2 max	BOS territory	Many observers
Trumpeter Swan	1	2	Niagara R./Ft. Erie(Ont)	Rew et al
"	7	1 ad	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	7; 13	1; 2	Fort Erie (Ont)	J&K Landau; Watson
"	22	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Galas, Rising
"	22	1 imm+1 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Tundra Swan	1	6	Niagara R./Ft. Erie(Ont)	Rew et al
"	6	5	Salamanca	Baird
"	7; 13	35; 3	Fort Erie (Ont)	J&K Landau; Watson
"	22	40	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Rising, Galas
"	22	3	Navy I. (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Gadwall	13; 28	14; 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson; Pawlicki, Salembier
"	22	4	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
American Black Duck	7 - 31	8 recs;35 max	BOS territory	Many observers
Northern Shoveler	1	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Northern Pintail	13; 29	1; 2	Dufferin Is. (Ont)	Watson; Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	2	Salamanca	Baird
"	28	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Salembier
Green-winged Teal	6	4	Goat I.	Sharon
Redhead	12	2	Niagara Falls, NY	Watson
"	13	161	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	22	10	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Ring-necked Duck	7	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	13	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	22	6	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Greater Scaup	13	<u>5200</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Lesser Scaup	17	10	Yates	Mason, Beattie
"	22	<u>424</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
"	22	3	Buckhorn I. SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Harlequin Duck	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
White-winged Scoter	7; 8	12; 79	Shadigee	Watson
"	15	46	Ft. Niagara/Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	11	Ft. Niagara SP	S&T O'Donnell
Long-tailed Duck	15; 22	2; 3	Grand I.	Lazarczyk; Lazar, Burch
Common Goldeneye	12	<u>1050</u>	Niagara Falls	Watson
Hooded Merganser	1	16	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	13	1	Chippewa (Ont)	Watson
"	13	35	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Galas, Seamans
"	15	42	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	6	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Ruddy Duck	13; 22	1; 2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Galas, Seamans; Galas Rising
"	22	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
Red-throated Loon	7	1	Somerset	J&K Landau, Rew
Pied-billed Grebe	1	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	15	10	Dunkirk/Barcelona	Rew, Horbett
Horned Grebe	7; 8	7; 7	Shadigee	Watson; Galas, Rising et al
"	8	15	Yates	Morgante
"	31	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	31	1	Batavia WWTP	Dart, Beattie
D.-crested Cormorant	13	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Seamans, Galas
"	28	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
Great Blue Heron	28	7	Strawberry I.	Watson
Turkey Vulture	<u>19</u>	1	Yates	Rew
"	<u>20</u>	1	Amherst	Rising
"	<u>22</u>	1	Porter	Sharon
Bald Eagle	6 - 29	18 recs	Throughout study area	Several observers
"	6 - 29	12 max	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Red-tailed Hawk	8	1 white	Farnham	Neveu
"	22	17	South Dayton	Neveu
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	Royalton	S&T O'Donnell
"	15	1	Randolph	Baird
"	16	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	2	Villanova	Neveu
"	22	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	22; 28	6; 3	South Dayton	Neveu; Rew, Walker
"	29	1	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
Merlin	<u>3 - 30</u>	7 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	<u>13</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Peregrine Falcon	20	2	Buffalo City Hall	Yoerg
American Coot	2; 3	2; 1	Buffalo	Galas, Rising et al
"	11	5	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Little Gull	13; 29	1; 3	Lewiston (Ont)	Galas, Seamans: S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	3	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Bonaparte's Gull	8	<u>5000</u>	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	22	<u>6000</u>	Fort Erie & Grand I.	D'Anna, Potter
Iceland Gull	1	3	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	22; 29	1; 1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlacki, Salembier
"	28	1	Queenston (Ont)	Pawlacki, Salembier
"	29	1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	1	8	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	13	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	22	3; 4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Galas, Rising; Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlacki, Salembier
Glaucous Gull	1	4	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	15; 16	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett; J&K Landau
"	22	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	28	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Salembier et al
Snowy Owl	7; 14; 15	1; 1; 1	Yates	Lazarczyk & Watson; S&T O'Donnell; D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Horbett
<u>Northern Hawk Owl</u>	7 - 17	1	Yates	Many observers
This Northern Hawk Owl was very well documented with many verification reports and several beautiful photographs. The first birder to see and report the owl was Ben Winger on the 7 <sup>th</sup> . Accepted verification reports and/or photos were received from (1) D'Anna, (2) Galas, (3) Lazarczyk, (4) Rising, (5) Watson, (6) Zebehazy. (Statisticians).				
Long-eared Owl	6	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Short-eared Owl	7 - 26	4 recs; 5 max	Porter	Several observers
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	2; 3; 20	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Phoebe	<u>2</u>	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Shrike	1 - 28	9 recs; 2 max	throughout WNY	many observers
American Crow	25	<u>1000</u>	Buffalo	Rising, Galas
Common Raven	1; 20	2; 1	Salamanca	Baird
"	15	2	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Horned Lark	7	200	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
"	8	100	Yates	Morgante et al
"	16; 24	150; 25	Bethany	Beattie
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	8	4	Wilson	J&K Landau, Rew
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	8	50	Wilson	J&K Landau, Rew
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	12 recs; 2 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Winter Wren	1	1	Queenston (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Eastern Bluebird	1	11	E. Aurora	Galas, Rising et al
"	2	4	Shelby	S&T O'Donnell
"	2; 3	13; 8	E. Aurora/Hamburg	Lazarczyk, Galas
"	19	2	Hartland	Rew, Horbett
"	22	4	Hanover	Neveu
"	28	2	Eden	Andrle
Hermit Thrush	4	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	6	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	15	1	Porter	Yoerg, Henderson
American Robin	7	350	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
<u>Varied Thrush</u>	1	1	Hamburg	Zebehazy
Gray Catbird	1	1	Times Beach	Rew, Horbett
"	1; 10	2; 1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	11	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Wheatfield	M&S Galas
"	8	1	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell
"	22	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	22	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Galas, Rising
"	23	1	Porter	M&S Galas
Yellow-r. Warbler	8	2	Lake Erie SP	Neveu
Pine Warbler	<u>22, 29</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter et al
Amer. Tree Sparrow	14	219	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
Chipping Sparrow	2; 16; 25	1; 1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
Field Sparrow	2; 3	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	16; 26	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
Fox Sparrow	<u>1</u>	1	Orchard Park (f)	Zebehazy
"	<u>11; 12</u>	1	Buffalo (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
Swamp Sparrow	1	2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1	Salamanca	Baird
White-thr. Sparrow	4	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	6	3	Tonawanda (f)	Watson
"	11	10	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	11; 12	1	Buffalo (f)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1	Porter	Galas, Rising
"	28	2	Times Beach NP	Andrle
White-cr. Sparrow	7	3	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	14	1	Porter	Galas, Rising
Lapland Longspur	8	3	Bliss	Galas, Rising et al
"	8; 15	8; 23	Yates	D'Anna et al
"	14	3	Porter	Galas, Rising
Snow Bunting	8	300	Somerset	Watson
"	8	300	Yates	Galas, Rising
"	8	700	Wilson	J&K Landau, Rew
"	13	26	Eden	Andrle
"	16	100	Bethany	Beattie
Red-w. Blackbird	1	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	1 - 30	16 max	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
Brown-head. Cowbird	31	5	Marilla	Holmes
Purple Finch	22	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Pine Siskin	2 - 31	17 max	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Orchard Park (f)	Morgante
"	27	3	Colden	J&K Landau

Also seen in January: Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Canvasback, Bufflehead, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

#### **Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**112**

#### **Total for the year 2006:**

**112**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

### **Swallow Hollow Nature Trail Dedication**

Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc would like to invite all interested persons to attend a Dedication Ceremony for the Swallow Hollow Nature Trail on April 15, 2006 at 10:30 AM. Meet at the trailhead on Knowlesville Road, just north of the Oak Orchard Creek.

This trail, which was closed due to unsafe conditions, is unique to Western New York in that nearly half of its length is composed of elevated boardwalk. The 1.3 mile trail traverses forested wetland, cattail marsh, and dry hemlock knolls.

Support for the trail reconstruction is being provided by the following organizations: The Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Centennial Legacy Fund, Wild Birds Unlimited Pathways to Nature Conservation Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Iroquois Job Corps, and the Friends of Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. For more information: 585-948-5445.

(continued from page 10)

Northern Saw-whet Owl, according to the BOS Seasonal Checklist, is a rare visitor to WNY in January. This is surprising considering the 20 January records in the BOS database (82 winter records). Beardslee & Mitchell mentions "a number of winter records 'in recent years' (circa 1965), especially on the Lake Ontario plain".

The Cackling Goose, a new species recently divided from the Canada Goose, was found for the second time in January in Erie County at the Squaw Island Park and documented by Jim Landau and Lynne Landon. The Cackling Goose was first reported in Erie County in January 2004 by the Suggs' in Evans, NY.

Greater Scaup numbering 5,200 were seen by Bill Watson near Ft. Erie. This number was exceeded only 6 times in BOS January records, all but one record in recent years. Klick counted 30,000 Greater Scaup in January of 1999. This far exceeds the maximum number of 6,168 reported in January of 1959 in Beardslee & Mitchell.

Lesser Scaup numbering 424 were reported by Willie D'Anna near Fort Erie. Only two January records exceeded D'Anna's count and both were in this millennium.

A January count of 1,050 Common Goldeneye was made by Bill Watson. That number was exceeded only four times in BOS January records. Beardslee & Mitchell only has two January records but a count of 4,938 in January of 1956 and 4,084 in 1957 far exceeded this year's count.

Bonaparte's Gull numbering 5,000 were seen by Lazarczyk at Beaver Island State Park and then 6,000 by Willie D'Anna at Ft. Erie and Grand Island. These numbers were exceeded numerous times in January in the boundary waters, especially by the late Mr. Bellerby at Niagara-on-the-Lake.

An American Crow count of 1,000 by Rising and Galas was exceeded by only 7 BOS winter records, including two counts of 7000 in January of 1971 at the West Seneca roost. Beardslee & Mitchell included a report of an 1884 winter



Lesser Black-backed Gull photographed by Willie D'Anna on January 1, 2006 at Goat Island.

roost on Goat Island and the Niagara Gorge, which contained countless numbers of Crows. Beardslee & Mitchell rarely use such an imprecise number in their book.

Seven Merlin (formerly Pigeon Hawk and Eastern Pigeon Hawk) at the UB campus were observed this January as opposed to a maximum of four Merlin last year. Beardslee & Mitchell consider the Merlin a sporadic very rare Winter Visitant, continuing that any record outside its normal migration period as very exceptional. Bill Watson verified a Merlin at Niagara Falls above the Falls on the island that has the Black-crowned Night Heron colony. The number of Peregrine Falcon (formerly known as Duck Hawk) records in the BOS database is so numerous that the BOS Seasonal Checklist ought to be updated.

I want to thank Dave Suggs for being especially responsive to my request for information from the BOS database and Bill Watson for his information, insights, suggestions, criticisms, and admonitions.



You're invited to the  
15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Vaughn Lecture:

**When Your Wing  
Is Your Musical  
Instrument:  
The Fascinating  
Story of the  
Club-winged  
Manakin**

**Wednesday, April 26  
7 p.m. • Free  
Open to the Public**



Buffalo Museum  
of SCIENCE  
Auditorium  
1020 Humboldt Pkwy.  
(Best Street Exit from Route 33)

Kimberly S. Bostwick, Ph.D., Cornell University's curator of birds and mammals, will present the evolutionary processes that have aided in the sound production of the male species of the unique Club-winged Manakin. Her research has shown that not only feather, but muscle and bone morphology are extremely modified for the more intense sound production used during the bird's courtship displays. Kimberly will explain how the bird has traveled a unique evolutionary road resulting in the use of its modified wing feathers as violins in order to attract females.

Reservations not required for the lecture.

Program presented jointly by the Buffalo Museum of Science, the Buffalo Audubon Society and the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Supported in part by the William C. Vaughn Endowment Fund.

Preceding the lecture, the museum will host the annual Bird 'n Buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person, with proceeds benefiting the Friends of Tiff Nature Preserve. Registration is required for the dinner.

Further information available at  
**896-5200, Ext. 391**

or [www.buffalomuseumofscience.org](http://www.buffalomuseumofscience.org)

# January 2006 Waterfowl Count Summary

by Jim Landau

**Overview.** The New York State Ornithological Association conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state's ten regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955. The region consists of the New York State portion of the BOS study area and includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The count period this year was January 14 – 22, 2006, with the target date of Sunday, January 15. Final results of the state waterfowl count will be published in "The Kingbird" and posted on the NYSOA website at: <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>.

**Weather.** January started off with a mild but overcast week, with the 5th capping off a record 13-day stretch of sunless skies. After a brief cold shot on 6-7th temperatures soared into the 50s and lower 60s during the second week with ample sunshine bringing a taste of spring. Deep lows moving to our north on 14th and 17-18th brought some drenching rains, which ended as snow. The target date for the count of Sunday, January 15 was relatively calm, with temperatures averaged in the mid-teens and an average wind speed of 9 mph. Strong winds and localized lake effect resulted in some hazardous driving conditions during the evening of the 18th just south of the city. This shot of winter was short lived however as temperatures bounced back into the 50s by the 20th. Winter made a brief return on 25th with some wet snow but there were some heavy accumulations across higher elevations of the southern tier and ski areas. (Excerpted from the Monthly Weather Summary For Buffalo, Jan. 2006, National Weather Service website.)

**Compilation.** The table below lists the species, their accumulated tallies and trending patterns, if any. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

Species	No.	Comments
Cackling Goose	1	(E)
Canada Goose	3560	variable
Mute Swan	4	(B, F, J)
Trumpeter Swan	2	rare (F)
Tundra Swan	170	variable (F, G)
Gadwall	33	low (E, F)
American Wigeon	10	variable (D)
Am. Black Duck	239	variable
Mallard	6328	variable
Northern Pintail	1	uncommon (E)
Canvasback	3081	low
Redhead	166	low
Ring-necked Duck	3	low (C, G)
Greater Scaup	8245	low
Lesser Scaup	425	record high (D, F)
Scaup species	10	

White-winged Scoter	51	variable
Long-tailed Duck	330	variable
Bufflehead	1078	variable
Common Goldeneye	2021	average
Hooded Merganser	72	average
Common Merganser	440	lowest since '96
Red-breasted Merganser	343	variable
Ruddy Duck	2	uncommon (F)
Red-throated Loon	1	uncommon
Pied-billed Grebe	11	average (D, I)
Double-crested Cormorant	96	high (I)
American Coot	8	lowest since '85 (G)
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>average</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>26737</b>	<b>lowest since '98</b>

**Notes.** The January 2006 Waterfowl Count for our region was perhaps most noteworthy for comments on the lack of anticipated waterfowl. Gadwall, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck and Greater Scaup all reported low. Common Mergansers were at their lowest since 1996. No Wood Ducks were counted, for the first time since 1988. Most sections were covered on the target date of January 15, which would seem to favor the factors of unusually mild weather and an ice-free Lake Erie as part of the answer for the low numbers. Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser continue a 4-year decline, and American Coot a 5-year decline (and at their lowest since 1985). Two Trumpeter Swans on the Niagara River (an adult with yellow wing tag # 847 and an immature bird sticking close) represent only the second record on this count, the first being 6 individuals reported in 1999. Other bright spots for this year included a Cackling Goose and a Northern Pintail on Squaw Island, and a Red-throated Loon in the gorge below Niagara Falls. All in all, a concerted effort resulted in 26,737 individual birds and 27 species counted.

## Participants

Sect.	Compilers	Area(s) surveyed
A	Roberta Vallone	Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott)
B	Peter Yoerg	Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara)
C	Bob Deleon	Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls (NY)
D	Mike Zebehazy	Niagara-On-The-Lake to Niagara Falls (ON)
E	Gerry Rising, Joe Thill	Buffalo Harbor to Goat Island (NY)
F	Gerry Rising, Bill Broderick	Jaeger Rocks to Horseshoe Falls (ON)
G	Bill Burch	Grand Island, NY
H	Dave Suggs	Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek)
I	Fran Rew	Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line)
J	Bob Sundell	Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake
K	Tim Baird	Olean & Salamanca
L	Doris Burton	Allegany County
M	Gail Seamans	Batavia
N	Ed Ratajczak	Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs
O	Ed Ratajczak	Iroquois NWR
P	Bill Burch	Amherst, Clarence, Cheektowaga, Lancaster
Q	Tom Connare	Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery
R	Liz Wells	South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek

## Participation in New York's Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey

We are also requested by the DEC to report any Bald Eagle sightings during the waterfowl count, to be included in their annual mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. They in turn contribute the New York State census to the national mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, coordinated by the Biological Resources Division of the U. S. Geological Survey. The following sightings were reported:

1/15/06 - **1 adult**, 11:30 a.m. at Queenston, ON. **1 adult**, 2:30 p.m. flying over the Niagara River, west side of Navy Island.

1/15/06 - **1 adult**, 2:30 p.m. at Sturgeon Point (Evans, NY).

1/15/06 - **3 adults, 5 immatures**, 11:30 a.m. near the Allegheny Reservoir at one location. 3 definitive adult plumage, 5 immature (probable one 3.5 year and four 1-2.5 year).

1/16/06 - **1 adult**, 3:30 p.m. at Countryside Gravel Pits, South Dayton, NY flying near nest.

1/17/06 - **1 immature**, 3:35 p.m. on Navy Island in Niagara River.

1/17/06 - **1 adult**, 2:15 p.m. **1 sub adult**, 3 p.m. Both in Celoron, NY by Chautauqua Lake.

1/20/06, **1 adult**, 9:42 a.m. flying over Navy Island. **1 immature** at 10:55 a.m. over Beaver Island SP (Grand Island, NY).

1/22/06 - **1 adult**, Town of Angelica, NY.

1/23/06, **1 adult**, 12:45 p.m. flying from Navy Island to Buckhorn Island SP (Grand Island, NY).

A total of 19 eagles were reported, with an impressive 8 eagles at one location at the same time. It should be noted that the sightings from Grand Island, NY on 1/20 and 1/23 are possibly the same individuals seen along the upper Niagara River on 1/15 and 1/17.

**Acknowledgements.** A big "Thank You!" is owed to all of the intrepid birders who braved the elements and participated in this years count:

Tim Baird, Tom Bearss, Bill Broderick, Bill Burch, Olive Burch, Doris Burton, Ken Cohen, Tom Connare, Willie D'Anna, Bob Deleon, Donna Deleon, Mike Desha, Joe DiDomenico, Steve Eaton, Mike Galas, Doug Happ, Barbara Henderson, Audrey Horbett, Mary Jordan, Jim Landau, Lynne Landon, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tom LeBlanc, Max Mason, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Betsy Potter, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Don Roberson, Vickie Rothman, Jim Rozanski, Gail Seamans, Dave Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Bob Sundell, Roberta Vallone, Bill Watson, Liz Wells, Larry Wilson, Peter Yoerg, Terry Yonker and Mike Zebehazy. The compiler apologizes to anyone who was inadvertently omitted. Please send any corrections or additions for updating.

## Ripley Hawk Watch: 2006 Season

by Gil Randell

The Ripley Hawk Watch (RHW) formally begins its 2006 season on March 15th. Coordinated by Len DeFrancisco, the RHW has been affiliated with the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) since 1985. Between March 15 and May 15 the RHW will submit reports of the migrating hawks, eagles and vultures it observes to HMANA, where the reports can be viewed on the internet along with counts from dozens of other sites in North America at [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org). Data from the RHW also is published annually in HMANA's journal Hawk Migration Studies.

Spring brings thousands of hawks, eagles and vultures over the RHW site. In their journey north to their nesting areas, these raptors pass through the corridor between the Lake Erie shore and the Allegany Plateau a few miles south of the lake. Volunteers at the RHW observe, identify and count these magnificent migrants.

Since 1985, 21 species of raptors and vultures have been recorded. A one-day count of 15 species has been recorded and more than a quarter-of-a-million raptors have been officially counted since 1985.

Migrants begin passing over the RHW in February, with flights increasing during March, peaking in mid- to late-April, tapering off during May and usually ending by late May. In mid-April the RHW sometimes documents more than 5,000 raptors in one day. Most of the birds will be broad-winged hawks, but on a good day the RHW could report as many as 15 different species of raptors, including bald eagles, golden eagles, ospreys and peregrine falcons.

The RHW has reported a number of raptor rarities such as Swallow-tailed Kite, Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, and Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks. Non-raptor rarities include Whooping Cranes in 2005, the first such sighting in New York State, migrant Sandhill Crane, Great Egret, American Bittern and Common Loon. The New York State Audubon has noted that the RHW reports "the highest number of Sandhill Cranes on any migration flyway in the northeast."

The Ripley Hawk Watch is located on the south shore of Lake Erie about 4 miles west of Westfield, NY. There are four sites between the lake shore and the top of the escarpment, which is about three miles south of the lake shore. The active site can vary according to the concentration of migrants at any particular time. On occasion several sites will be manned. The sites include Shorehaven on Route 5 (about a mile east of Forsythe Road), Parker Road at the gravel pit (just north of Barber Road), Creamery Road (halfway up the vineyard, just south of Barber Road), and Creamery Road at the radio tower (at the intersection with Belson Road). Ripley Hawk Watch signs mark each site.

Visitors are welcome and should dress warmly and bring binoculars, field guides, sunscreen, a lawn chair and lunch. For more information, call Len DeFrancisco (716-665-4999) or Gil Randell (716-753-2333)

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## April – May Calendar

### BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**BOS Grant Applications Due on April 30, 2006. Download application materials at [www.bosbirding.org](http://www.bosbirding.org)**

- Apr. 2: Sunday. Oak Orchard Swamps Field Trip.** Meet 8:00 am (*daylight saving time*), at Cayuga Pool parking lot along Route 77 in Iroquois NWR. Leader: Gail W. Seaman (585-937-5105 or Gails@netacc.net).
- Apr. 9: Sunday. April Count.** All BOS members should participate. Contact Coordinator: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com).
- Apr. 12: Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room** of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jacalyn Perry will discuss bird rehabilitation.
- Apr. 23: Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip.** This annual trip to the Hawk Watch will be led by Mike Zebehazy (BOS) and Bob Spahn (GOS). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 AM. The group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay (Monroe County) for a 9:30 AM rendezvous with the GOS. Contact Mike at zebs@adelphia.net or 662-6987.
- Apr. 26: Vaughan Lecture Series. Wednesday. 7:00 PM at Buffalo Museum of Science.** Free. (see page 15 for announcement flyer)
- May 7: Sunday. Chestnut Ridge Field Trip** for Louisiana Waterthrush and early migrants. Meet at the main lodge at 8:30 AM. Leader Mike Morigante (667-9705 or )
- May 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room** of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Brendan Klick of Johns Hopkins University will discuss "Statistical Analysis of BOS Count Data."
- May 13: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach** for warblers. Meet at the Tifft Nature Preserve parking lot (off Furman Blvd.) at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).
- May 21: May Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or rldeleon@yahoo.com) All BOS members should participate.
- May 24: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room** of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Program TBA.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: February

by Mike Zebehazy

"The badger peeps out of his hole on Candlemas Day, and, if he finds snow, walks abroad; but if he sees the sun shining he draws back into his hole."—*German Proverb*.

After one of the warmest Januaries in history, winter made its presence felt in February. The month began with a continuation of January's warmth with temperatures averaging over 12 degrees above normal for the first four days. A major storm moved up to our west on the 5th and was followed by the first of two major windstorms. This ushered in a week long period of wintry cold and daily light snowfalls, the most significant being the 3 to 6 inch fall off unfrozen Lake Erie across the metro area on the 13th. The average temperature of 27.8 °F was about two degrees above normal. The positive departure was mostly due to the mild first week and a couple of brief warm-ups during the month. Temperatures actually trended downwards through the month with the last few days the coldest since early December. Measurable snow fell on 17 days during the month, but all in small "nickel and dime" amounts as is typical for February. The total of 26.3 inches was the greatest for this month in 11 years. Snow cover was thin and sporadic though, covering the ground on only half the days.

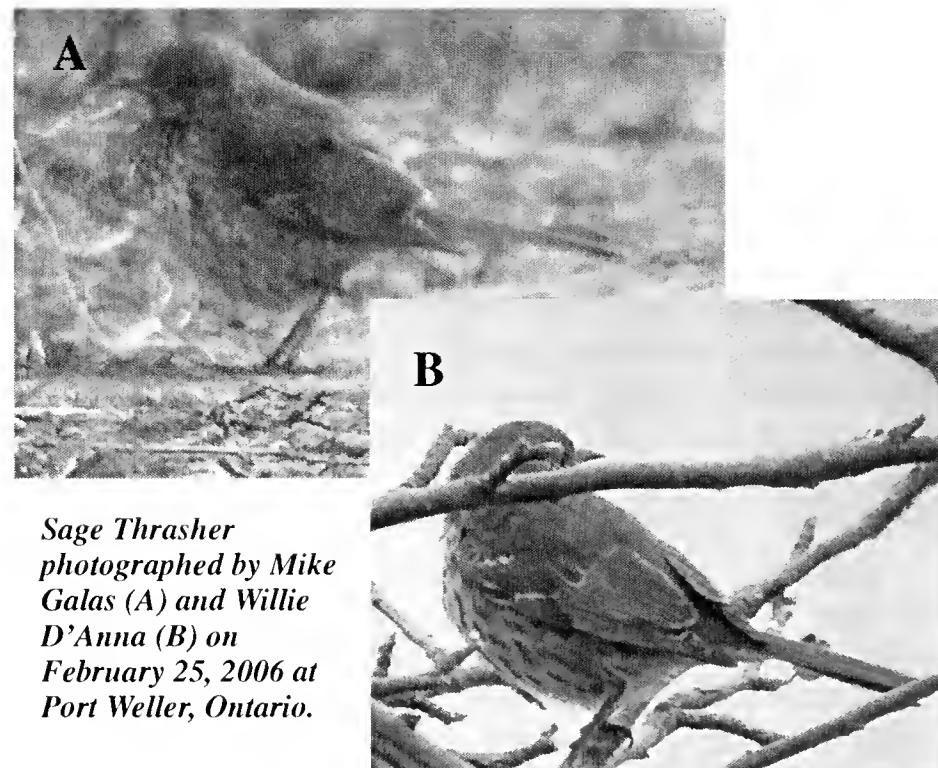
The next major weather event of the month was another deep storm passing by to our north on the 17th. This led to the most dramatic weather of the month. Temperatures soared to record levels (61 °F) in the predawn hours before a sharp cold front crossed the area during the early morning

accompanied by damaging wind gusts. Temperatures plunged quickly. This led to a wintry last third of the month with daily light snowfalls. This included a 2 to 4 inch event off Lake Erie early on the 21st and rare heavy snow burst from Georgian Bay near midnight on 25-26th which

dropped 5 inches in a narrow strip near the airport. The month ended dry and cold with a touch of snow on the ground.

February started out very cloudy with only a few hours of sun during the first two weeks. The month's last half was much brighter but still brought the monthly total up to just 25 percent of the possible, some 11 points less than usual for February. Only one day was classified as mostly sunny. Lake Erie remained wide open for most of the month, but any hopes for a totally ice free winter were dashed by the extended cold period during the latter part of the month. Ice began to form rapidly during the last few days.

Merlins are in the news again this month. Peter Yoerg continued his yearly observations of this species at the University of Buffalo Main Street campus spotting as many as 7 birds at one time. Jerry Lazarczyk noticed a female Merlin at the corner of Sheridan Drive and Kenmore Avenue in Kenmore, NY. He almost dismissed it as an American Kestrel until he took a closer look. On February 1, Miley Miller, as well as several other Institute staff members, observed a Merlin on the grounds of the Roger Tory Peter-



Sage Thrasher  
photographed by Mike Galas (A) and Willie D'Anna (B) on February 25, 2006 at Port Weller, Ontario.

- |    |   |
|----|---|
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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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son Institute in Jamestown, NY. They watched as it enjoyed an American Goldfinch meal.

Many observers, including Galas, Lazarczyk and Watson reported the continuing presence of the Northern Hawk Owl in Lyndonville. The bird was also regularly reported on Dial-a-Bird so one can conclude that it remained at the site throughout the month.

The biggest news of the month, however, has to be the Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*) found on the east pier of the Welland Canal in Port Weller, Ontario. The bird was first identified by Ontario birder Brian Ahara on February 24 and later seen by many observers. It was well documented by BOS birders D'Anna, Galas, Landau, Lazarczyk, and Watson. According to *ontbird\_listserv* reports, this bird was last seen on the morning of February 27. As one person reported, "The Thrasher

spent most of its time feeding and hopping on the ground within the grasses and underneath the sumacs that border the dirt road, and would occasionally fly up and perch on the sumacs and other low shrubs. It is generally quite wary and will flush, but with patience it afforded nice looks as it foraged on the ground at a distance, and oftentimes right on the dirt road."

This certainly qualifies, in my estimation, as a bird of the year candidate for the BOS study area by virtue of its rarity. This is only the second record for our area. Dan Salisbury first reported a Sage Thrasher in October of 1966, and, amazingly, that bird was found in Welland. Although these records are not of New York State birds, it is interesting to note the history of this species on this side of the Niagara. In New York State this species has been recorded only four times and not since 1973 (*Bull's Birds of New York State*, Emmanuel E. Levine, Ed., 1998).

Beardslee and Mitchell (*Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, 1965) have this to say about Sage Thrasher: "Possibly the most unusual record which we have for western New York is the occurrence of this species. On April 12, 1942, Dr. Gordon M. Meade noted a single individual in a

field near Braddock Bay, a short distance west of Rochester [BOS territory prior to 1955]. Fortunately it stayed in the vicinity while he returned for his collecting gun, and it was taken and preserved. It proved to be a female. This bird of the Southwest had never previously been reported, to our knowledge, as far east as the Mississippi River."

The following excerpts are from *The Birds of North America*: "Originally called the Mountain Mockingbird, the Sage Thrasher has a long, melodious song of great variety, reminiscent of a mockingbird's song, and is found mostly in shrub-dominated valleys and plains of the western United States." ..Casually recorded in portions of s. British Columbia, w. Washington, and w. Oregon east across s. Manitoba and Great Lakes region (w. and s. Ontario, Minnesota, Wisconsin, n. Illinois, Michigan) to Atlantic coastal region (mainly in fall; recorded from Massachusetts south to N. Carolina), and from e. Texas and ne. Arkansas east to nw. Florida. Accidental on Guadeloupe Is.?" (Reynolds, T. D., T. D. Rich, and D. A. Stephens. 1999. Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 463 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.

Other species of note this month as reported via Dial-a Bird include Eastern Meadowlarks in the Town of Porter at the Fort Niagara exit from the Robert Moses Parkway; Evening Grosbeaks at the Allegany State Park Administration Building window feeder; Bald Eagles at Strawberry Island in the upper Niagara River, over Silver Creek, at the Iroquois NWR and Oak Orchard WMA where an adult was observed carrying a stick to a nest at Windmill Marsh; Rough-legged Hawks in the northwest corner of Cattaraugus County, in the Town of Dayton; Pine Warbler again at Dufferin Islands in Niagara Falls, Ontario where it has been frequently reported at the feeding area since early January; Harlequin Duck, a first winter male, moving around the Dunkirk Harbor vicinity; Little Gulls at the outflow from the treatment plant on Squaw Island in Buffalo; and two leucistic Red-tailed Hawks, one previously reported in southern Erie County on Lotus Point Road in the Town of Evans, and a second in Niagara County at Shunpike and Cambria-Lockport Roads



Mourning Dove photographed by Willie D'Anna on February 20, 2006 in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	1	2	Wilson	Rising, Galas
"	4	2	Wilson	S&T O'Donnell
"	4	4	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	1	28	Grand I.	M&S Galas
"	10; 24	54; 2	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	20	65	Strawberry I.	Watson
* Wood Duck	20	3	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Gadwall	19; 22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson, Pawlicki
American Wigeon	4	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19; 22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson, Pawlicki
Northern Pintail	4	6	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Ring-necked Duck	2	8	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	22	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
Lesser Scaup	22	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Harlequin Duck	19; 22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson, Pawlicki
Long-tailed Duck	22; 23	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki: Moshers
"	27	86	Lewiston	Lazarczyk
Hooded Merganser	2; 3	3; 6	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg; Seamans, Galas
"	12	2	Times Beach NP	Andrles
"	19; 22	50; 4	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson
Ruddy Duck	<u>19</u>	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	<u>22</u>	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
"	<u>23</u>	4	Dunkirk Harbor	M&S Galas
* Ruffed Grouse	12; 16	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
Red-throated Loon	4	1	Shadigee	D'Anna
* Common Loon	4	1	Olcott	Yoerg, Henderson
Pied-billed Grebe	22; 23	8; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; M&S Galas
Horned Grebe	4	9	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	4	9	Shadigee	D'Anna
"	12	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	M&S Galas
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
* Red-necked Grebe	4	1	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
D.-crested Cormorant	22	83	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	25	22	Port Weller (Ont)	Watson et al
Great Blue Heron	6	1	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	11; 22	10; 12	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers; Watson, Pawlicki
"	13; 20	40; 19	Strawberry I.	Galas; M&S Galas
Turkey Vulture	22	1	Aurora	Holmes
Bald Eagle	2 - 22	7 recs; 6 max	Strawberry I.	Several observers
"	20	7 ad, 2 imm	Strawberry I.	M&S Galas

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	3; 4; 20	1 ad; 1 ad; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Galas et al
"	3; 20	1 ad; 3	Iroquois NWR	Seamans, Galas; S&T O'Donnell
"	3 - 26	7 recs; 2 max	WNY & Ft. Erie (Ont)	Several observers
* Red-shouldered Hawk	5	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	J&K Landau
Red-tailed Hawk	15; 23	1 leucistic	Farnham	Andrles
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	Somerset	Andrles
"	4; 11	1; 2	Porter	S&T O'Donnell; D'Anna et al
"	11	2	Dunkirk Airport	S&T O'Donnell
Merlin	1	1	Jamestown	Miller et al
"	<u>1 - 22</u>	8 recs; 6 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	<u>12</u>	1	Kenmore	Lazarczyk
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Downtown Buffalo	Yoerg
American Coot	4	1	Buckhorn I. SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	19	1	Olcott	Pawlicki, D'Anna
"	22	46	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Little Gull	1	1	Ft. Niagara	Rising, Galas
"	1	1	Grand I.	M&S Galas
"	4; 5	3; 1	Lewiston	S&T O'Donnell; J&K Landau
"	20; 25	1; 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna; Morgante
Bonaparte's Gull	20	1000	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	4	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	J&K Landau
"	5	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	20	4	N.Falls to Ft. Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
"	23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	20	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	4	N.Falls to Ft. Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
"	25	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Morgante
Snowy Owl	2	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	4	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Northern Hawk Owl</u>	4 - 26	1	Lyndonville	Galas, Lazarczyk, Watson
Long-eared Owl	4; 18	1; 1	Golden Hill SP	Potter, D'Anna; Rosenburg
Short-eared Owl	26	3	Porter	Rosenburg et al (BOS)
* Red-headed Wdpkr.	22	1	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23	2	Dunkirk	M&S Galas
* Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1	1	Ft. Niagara	Galas, Rising
"	19	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	23	2	Dunkirk	M&S Galas
Northern Shrike	1; 9; 10	1; 1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Sharon; Hess
"	12	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	M&S Galas
"	12	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Sharon
Common Raven	12	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	11; 19; 28	12; 3; 16	East Bethany	Beattie
"	28	2	Bethany	Beattie
Carolina Wren	1; 3	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	21	1	Eden	Andrles
Winter Wren	11	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Eastern Bluebird	1	1	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19	4	Springville	J Landau
Hermit Thrush	11	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
"	12	1	Times Beach NP	Andrles
American Robin	5;11;23	12; 6; 20	Bethany	Beattie
"	16; 22	10; 40	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Gray Catbird	12	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Mockingbird	1	1	Wilson	Galas, Rising
"	1	8	Porter	Galas, Rising
* <u>Sage Thrasher</u>	25	1	Port Weller (Ont)	D'Anna, Galas, Landon, Lazarczyk, Watson
Pine Warbler	<u>12</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	M&S Galas
"	<u>20</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna
Chipping Sparrow	3 - 28	1	Bethany (f)	Beattie
Field Sparrow	5	1	Pomfret	Moshers
White-thr. Sparrow	12	3	Times Beach NP	Andrles
"	22; 24	6; 3	Tonawanda	Watson
Snow Bunting	11	12	Bethany	Beattie
"	28	5	East Bethany	Beattie
Red-w. Blackbird	13;24;25	14	Tonawanda	M&S Galas et al
"	20	21	Alabama	S&T O'Donnell
"	22	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	24	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	25	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Galas et al
* Common Grackle	27F	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Brown-head. Cowbird	1	39	Porter	Galas, Rising
"	1; 20; 22	1; 1; 4	Tonawanda (f)	Hess
"	3	30	Tonawanda	Watson
"	20; 27	8; 7	Tonawanda	M&S Galas
Purple Finch	20	2	Oak Orchard WMA	S&T O'Donnell
Pine Siskin	1-28	6	Colden	J&K Landau
"	4 - 28	1 - 5	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	19	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Pawlicki
American Goldfinch	18	5	Tonawanda	Watson

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for the year:**

**112**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**009**

**Total for the year 2006:**

**121**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## BOS Owl Field Trip

by Chuck Rosenburg

February 26 was another cold and breezy day in western New York, with afternoon temperatures in the upper teens and moderate N and NW winds. Regardless, 25 hardy birders met at the Summit Mall in Wheatfield to brave the elements in search of owls and other noteworthy birds. The caravan of 11 vehicles traversed rural roads of Niagara and Orleans County, stopping at several locations known to harbor owls. In total, five species of owls and 21 other bird species were observed.

The caravan first stopped at the Niagara Falls airport to scan the broad open fields for raptors. The first of the day's 11 Northern Harriers was observed there. Another Northern Harrier and three Red-tailed Hawks were seen along Lockport Road. We observed a Great Horned Owl on-nest behind the Niagara-Orleans County BOCES facility. From there, the caravan proceeded generally north and east, observing an additional five Red-tailed Hawks, two Northern Harriers, and two American Kestrels. In addition, a Horned Lark was seen singing and displaying along Jacques Road in the Town of Newfane. Some observed a Ring-necked Pheasant along Hoffman Road, not far from a NYSDEC pheasant release site.

In the village of Barker, we were treated to an excellent view of a gray phase Eastern Screech-Owl peering out of a nest box entrance hole. Our gracious host noted that another E. Screech-Owl occupied a different nest box mounted at the driveway edge. We later learned that the second bird had popped its head out of the nest box entrance just as we pulled out of the driveway. A few in the group also observed a Sharp-shinned Hawk at this location. Enroute to the Town of Yates, we observed five American Robins along Lower Lake Road. At the well established Route 63 Northern Hawk Owl site, the owl performed wonderfully, swooping in and landing on a utility pole as the caravan approached. The entire group was able to view the owl from the roadside, savoring what may be our last look for some time at this rare visitor to western New York.

About half the group decided to depart at this time, and the smaller caravan proceeded west toward the Town of Porter. An additional Red-tailed Hawk and Northern Harrier were observed along Route 18, and an American Coot was seen at Olcott Harbor. We arrived near the intersection of Dickersonville and Youngstown Roads just after sunset, and observed five Northern Harriers and four Short-eared Owls hunting the grassy fields. From there, the caravan began the trek back toward Summit Mall. A Great Horned Owl was observed well after dark, perched on a utility pole from which it flushed to a nearby tree. The final stop, at Bond Lake County Park, yielded three more owls. An Eastern Screech-Owl responded to my whistled imitation, but did not approach closely enough to be seen. In contrast, two Barred Owls responded to my owl hoots and, much to our delight, landed about 100 feet away. One even hooted a few times for us while lit-up in a red spotlight. That provided an excellent conclusion to an invigorating day of birding.

## Times Beach Nature Preserve

by Gerry Rising



With perfect timing, the Times Beach Nature Preserve trails, boardwalks and blinds are now all open to birders. It may have taken almost thirty years to accomplish this but we now have a top quality birding site: a strategically located migrant trap.

Without the hard work over many years of first the larger Times Beach ad hoc Committee and more recently the eight member Times Beach Oversight Committee, this wonderful park would at best have continued to languish. The three co-chairs of the committee are Paul MacClennan, Jay Burney and George Arthur and its members are Bob Andrle, Ellen Gibson, Mike Hamilton, Richard Leonard and Sally Metzger. Before his death Blake Reeves was an earlier participant.

Others gave important support to the committees' efforts. They include Congressman Brian Higgins and NYS Assemblyman Jay Schroeder; Erie County officials Mary Rossi, who served as Times Beach Project Manager, Mike Raab and Tom Hersey; and Mike Greer of the Corps of Engineers.

A group of us birded Times Beach Nature Preserve in late April and, if our experience is any indication, this is going to be a spectacular contribution to regional birding. There is much down timber that has -- thank goodness -- not been cleared and many of the birds were at eye level. Over time more willows will grow back to add to the preserve's attraction.

I add one personal note. Those of us who have followed the Times Beach follies over the years know that one BOS member deserves special praise for his stick-to-itiveness in promoting this site. We owe all of the people I have listed our thanks but, once again, we owe Bob Andrle special praise for his role in our behalf.

**Buffalo Ornithological Society — Annual Treasurer's Report 2004-2005**  
*Tom O'Donnell, Treasurer 2005*

<b>Checking account – opening balance</b>	<b>\$ 8,442.44**</b>
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**Distributed:	General Fund	\$ 7,635.84
	(General Operating Exp.	\$ 3,938.32
	(2004 Banquet	\$ 1,500.00
	(Map Project	\$ 181.70
	(M.L. Emerson Bequest	\$ 2,015.82
	<i>Prothonotary Fund</i>	\$ 781.60
	Donation in memory of Art Schaffner	\$ 25.00

**Income:**

Dues: General Fund	\$ 1105.00
<i>Prothonotary Fund</i>	\$ 2685.00
Donations	\$ 445.00
Checking Account Interest	\$ 10.11
Seasonal Checklist Sales	\$ 160.83
Date Guide Sales	\$ 53.00
Axtell/McVey/Wendling Donations	\$ 210.00
Transfer from Inv. Acct. for Special Projects	\$ 2097.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 6,765.94</b>

**Expense:**

<i>Prothonotary Expenses:</i>	
Annual Bulk Mail Permit 2yr	\$ 300.00
Bulk Postage Acct.	\$ 639.21
Printing 9/04-11/05	\$ 2378.33
Postage & Supplies	\$ 149.06
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 3,466.60</b>
Membership Committee	\$ 89.77
Grand Island Property Tax	\$ 140.55
Statistician Expenses	\$ 76.92
Treasurer Expenses	\$ 109.90
Speaker Honorarium	\$ 175.00
Bank Service Charges	\$ 30.00
NYS Ornithological Society Dues	\$ 30.00
Museum of Science Donation Meeting Room	\$ 300.00
Museum of Science Donation Vaughan Lec.	\$ 100.00
Seasonal Checklist Printing	\$ 49.41
<b>Subtotal General Fund</b>	<b>\$ 1101.55</b>
<b>Special Project Fund Grants</b>	<b>\$ 2097.00</b>
Transfer A/M/W donations to Inv. Acct.	\$ 210.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,875.15</b>

**2004 Banquet:**

Budgeted Funds	\$ 1500.00
Income	\$ 1298.00
Expenses	\$ 2477.07
Balance	\$ 320.93 (Budgeted to 2009 Banquet)

<b>Checking account – closing balance</b>	<b>\$ 7,154.16</b>
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General Fund	\$ 7,029.16
(General Operating Exp.	\$ 4,510.71
(2009 Banquet	\$ 320.93
(Map Project	\$ 181.70
(M.L. Emerson Bequest	\$ 2,015.82
<i>Prothonotary Fund</i>	\$ 0.00
Donation in memory of Art Schaffner	\$ 25.00
Donation i/m/o Carmen Tarantino	\$ 100.00

<b>Axtell/McVey/Wendling Fund value as of 12/31/05</b>	<b>\$ 43,405.85</b>
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Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
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<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## May – June Calendar

- Mar 1 - May 15:** **Hamburg Hawk Watch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)).
- May 7: Sunday. Chestnut Ridge Field Trip** for Louisiana Waterthrush and early migrants. Meet at the main lodge at 8:30 AM. Leader Mike Manganite (667-9705)
- May 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room** of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Brendan Klick of Johns Hopkins University will discuss “Statistical Analysis of BOS Count Data.”
- May 13: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach Nature Preserve** for warblers. Meet at the Tifft Nature Preserve parking lot (off Fuhrmann Blvd.) at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).
- May 21: May Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or [rleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rleon@yahoo.com)) All BOS members should participate.
- May 24: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room** of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Bill Burch will present a slide show, The History of the Buffalo Peregrine Falcons.
- June 2-4: Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.** For more information or to register visit [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org)
- June 9: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West Street - west bank of Welland Canal, Port Colborne, Ontario) Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations will be appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- June 14: Wednesday. The last meeting, the Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve,** and followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 4 April, 2006

### THE MONTH: March

by Tim Baird

The National Weather Service summarizes March 2006 in Buffalo as, "A relatively tame March for western New York." March's 35.2 °F average temperature for Buffalo was 0.9 °F above normal for the month. Of course, averages obscure the day to day weather changes that we and our birds all have to live with. At a more detailed resolution, March expectedly ran hot and cold, or in correct order cold and hot.

The first week of March brought along a late February cold spell with the month's lowest temperature of 14 °F on the 3rd. A general snowfall occurred on the 2nd covering the southtowns with up to 10 inches. The second week transitioned into warmer air bringing liquid precipitation including 0.95 inches of rain falling from thunderstorms on the 13th. The next 10 days turned cold with "spotty snow showers". Warmth returned after the equinox, and March ended with an uncharacteristic high of 77 °F in Buffalo on the 31st.

Overall, precipitation was slightly (0.85 inches) below normal totaling 2.14 inches for the month. Other than strong southwest winds on the 10th, March failed to live up to its reputation as a windy month. The average wind speed was 10.0 mph. Worthy of note, due to winter's mild temperatures, Lake Erie was free of ice by the 16th at Buffalo Harbor, about a month earlier than average and the 6th earliest of record.

March is a waterfowl month. Observers reported 29 species of geese, swans, and ducks. Accepted verification reports highlight waterfowl species that are generally rare in the region. Two Ross's Geese were present on the 4th in Welland, Ontario (Black, Clements, and Roy) and one was

found on Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR on March 12th (Lazarczyk and Watson). In his report, Roy noted "numerous reports" of Ross's Goose in many other parts of southern Ontario.

Cayuga Pool at Iroquois NWR also provided a single Cackling Goose on the 12th (Yoerg and Pawlicki) and at least four on the 26th (Yoerg). Two Eurasian Wigeon were reported from Cayuga Pool on the 18th (Pawlicki, Salembier et. al.), and at Oak Orchard WMA a single bird was reported at Stafford Pond on 4 days in March with written reports submitted by several observers (D'Anna, Galas, K. Landau, Lazarczyk, Salembier, Watson). All write-ups noted the red head and buffy yellow forehead, or as Salembier aptly described it, "creamy yellow racing stripe", of this old world species.

Our more expected species of waterfowl did not disappoint observers. Snow Goose reports include 3 dark morph birds (about 0.6% of the reported birds). Unlike the Tundra Swan, the Snow Goose apparently avoids the uplands of the plateau to the south where it is very rarely observed. There were few reports of Canada Goose, likely a result of observer fatigue with this species. Are we losing information on the migratory populations of the Canada Goose through western New York? After the first week of the month, Tundra Swans had a good flight with most reports topping 100 birds and reaching a maximum of 216 in the Alabama Swamp area on the 13th (Galas, Watson et. al.)



Ross's Geese photographed by Kayo Roy on March 4, 2006 in Welland, Ontario.

27 The Month  
by Tim Baird

29 Noteworthy Records  
by Bruce Chilton

34 BOS Calendar

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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ton topping out at 65 on the 17th (Neveu, Watson), and Red-necked Grebe numbering 140 at Somerset on the 25th (D'Anna). The month ended with 5 Great Egrets "crouched into the wind" at Motor Boat Island on the 31st (Galas).

Turkey Vulture migration was in full swing in the second half of March with a maximum of 283 at the Hamburg Hawkwatch on the 23rd (Watson). Our raptors are returning, migrating through, or already nesting this month. Ospreys continue a trend toward earlier spring arrival as the local breeding population has blossomed. The Allegheny Reservoir has several breeding pair of Osprey, and a bird was reported from there on the 29th of March (Lazarczyk). Bald Eagles are doing well as breeding birds in the northeastern states and western New York is no exception. Bald Eagles on nests were reported from Perrysburg (Neveu), Iroquois NWR (Watson et. al.), Dayton (Neveu), and the Allegheny Reservoir (Baird). This writer is old enough to remember when seeing a Bald Eagle in our area was not routine; times have changed for the better.

Reports from Hamburg Hawkwatch were low; though 20 Red-shouldered Hawks and 45 Red-tailed Hawks indicate a good Buteo flight on the 16th (Watson). The open

Most of our ducks were well represented. March 11th hosted the first Blue-winged Teal of the year with 4 observed at Iroquois NWR (Watson). Many reports show March 11th was a particularly good waterfowl day. There were factors that apparently contributed to this, it was a Saturday and the weather had cleared following a couple of rainy days, so there was opportunity and incentive for birders to be in the field. Bird Island Pier was a good place to find waterfowl on the 11th. Large numbers of several species at this location included 300 Bufflehead and a like number of Common Goldeneye along with 100 Red-breasted Mergansers (Morgante).

The latter half of March provided observers the opportunity to view good numbers of Red-throated Loon, 13 observed at Wilson on the 30th (D'Anna), and grebes, with Horned Grebe numbers at Day-

agricultural fields near South Dayton are apparently home to good populations of the small mammals that attract the Rough-legged Hawk as illustrated by 10 on the 17th and 16 on the 18th observed in this locality (Neveu).

Significant numbers of Wilson's Snipe are a regular March occurrence in a partially flooded pasture near Randolph. Observers from the Cattaraugus County Bird Club found an estimated 20 Wilson's Snipe during their waterfowl field trip on 18th, and the same location on the 26th revealed an estimated 40 birds (Baird, et. al.). The first American Woodcock for the season appeared on March 10th when single birds were reported at four separate locations.

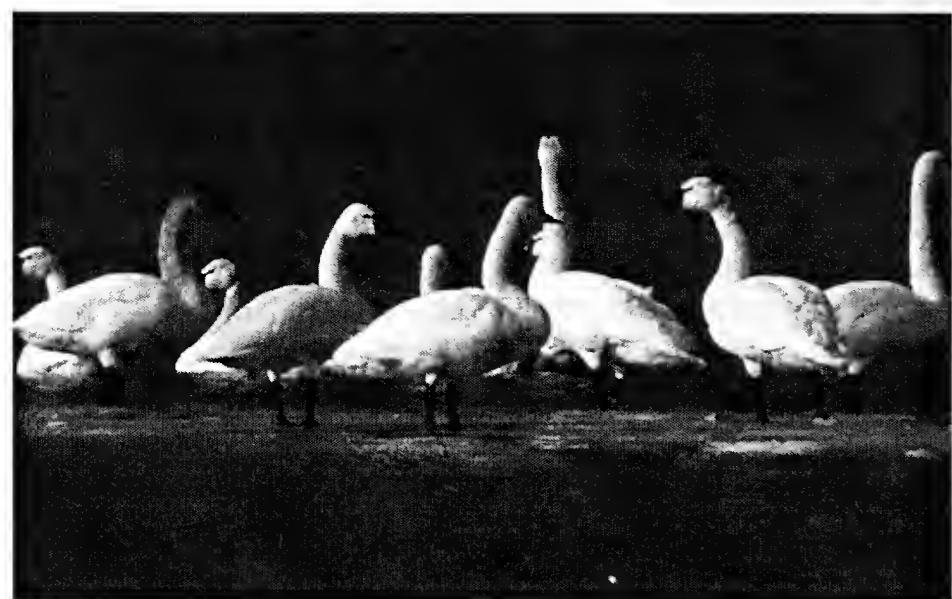
Owls, like teenagers, are more often heard than seen. However, roosting and nesting owls can be cooperative for viewing. Nests of the Great Horned Owl were discovered in Allegany State Park on the 5th (Baird) and in Perrysburg on the 11th (Neveu).

A Red-headed Woodpecker at Cambria on March 4th (Galas, Hernik) is an individual of a species whose populations are in general decline. The Red-headed Woodpecker is a species categorized as of "special concern" by New York State.

Common Raven continues to spread beyond the extensively forested areas in the southern tier to regions north. The "croaky call" alerted Karen and Jim Landau to a Common Raven at the Erie County Forest Preserve on March 4th. Likely this helped lift their spirits as they were in the process of trying to free their car that was stuck in the snow.

Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings are generally associated with winter in this area and the changing season stimulates them to move. Two Snow Buntings passed the Hamburg Hawkwatch on March 5th (Watson, J. Landau) on their way north. Twenty-five Lapland Longspurs is an impressive number at Pomfret on the 31st (Mosher). Wintering Evening Grosbeaks have been scarce in recent years in our area. Tom LeBlanc's feeder at the Administration Building at Allegany State Park attracted 3 on March 5th (Yoerg and Henderson) and 2 on the 7th (Galas).

(continued on page 33)



Tundra Swans photographed by Tim Baird on March 18, 2006 at Red House Lake in Allegany State Park.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Snow Goose	9F; 11	16; 103	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, Morgante et al
"	10; 19	130; 26	Pomfret	Moshers
"	11	51	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
"	11	38	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	12	75	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Yoerg et al
"	20	28 white	Somerset	Potter
"	11 - 24	1 - 15	Throughout WNY	8 other reports
* Ross's Goose	4F	2	Welland, Ont.	Roy et al
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Lazarczyk
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	12; 26	1; 4	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
Mute Swan	13	1	Iroquois NWR	S&M Galas
Tundra Swan	8	122	Hanover	Neveu
"	9	130	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	13; 18	216; 130	Alabama Swamp area	S&M Galas; Watson et al
"	19	203	Alexander	Beattie
"	24	158	Bethany	Beattie
"	25	140	Hartland	D'Anna (BOS)
"	26	175	Conewango	Watson, Baird et al
"	1 - 29	7 - 100	Throughout WNY	17 other reports
Wood Duck	11	25	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Morgante
"	8 - 31	1 - 9	Throughout WNY	10 other reports
Gadwall	11	12	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	13	15	Iroquois NWR	Watson; S&M Galas
"	18;19;22	114;175;44	Sheridan	Neveu
"	8 - 25	3 - 12	Throughout WNY	7 other reports
* Eurasian Wigeon	18	2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	18; 25	1; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Galas
"	22; 23	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson; Lazarczyk
"	25	1	Oak Orchard WMA	K Landau, D'Anna
American Wigeon	18	200	Alabama Swamp area	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	10 - 26	1 - 68	Throughout WNY	16 other reports
* Blue-winged Teal	11F	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	12	4	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Shoveler	19	58	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	10 - 26	1 - 18	Throughout WNY	8 other reports
Northern Pintail	9	21	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	11	81	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	11 - 25	2 - 93	Alabama Swamp area	Watson, Beattie et al
"	12	67	S. Dayton	Neveu
Green-winged Teal	12	30	S. Dayton	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	17	29	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	10 - 22	3 - 21	Throughout WNY	8 other reports
Canvasback	8	337	Grand I.	S&M Galas
Ring-necked Duck	11 - 13	26 - 415	Alabama Swamp area	Watson, Dart et al
"	16; 26	55; 89	Pomfret	Neveu
"	17 - 25	4 recs; 184 max	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	21	240	Dayton	Neveu
"	4 - 25	2 - 21	Throughout WNY	10 other reports
Lesser Scaup	8	17	Grand I.	S&M Galas
"	11 - 30	2 - 11	Throughout WNY	4 other reports
White-winged Scoter	11	2	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
Long-tailed Duck	11	2	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	31	1	Iroquois NWR	Seamans, Galas
Bufflehead	4	139	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	300	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
"	11 - 25	1 - 4	Throughout WNY	6 other reports
Common Goldeneye	4	192	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	300	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
"	11 - 19	1 - 69	Oak Orchard WMA	4 other reports
Hooded Merganser	11	41	Alabama Swamp area	Watson
"	15	62	N. Tonawanda	S&M Galas
"	28	53	Times Beach NP	Andrle, Bogacki
"	10 - 29	1 - 23	Throughout WNY	11 other reports
Common Merganser	1	261	Motor I.	Watson
"	4	194	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	2 - 17	1 - 15	Throughout WNY	7 other reports
Red-br. Merganser	4	31	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	100	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
Ruddy Duck	18F; 19	1; 1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlucki et al; Watson
"	19	4	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
Red-throated Loon	25	1	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	30	13	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	30	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Pied-billed Grebe	4	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Rising et al
"	18	2	Hanover	Neveu
Horned Grebe	14	8	Bennington	Seamans
"	17;18;21	65; 54; 45	Dayton	Neveu, Watson
Red-necked Grebe	11	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	25	140	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	30	41	Wilson	D'Anna
Great Blue Heron	1; 5	35; 28	Strawberry I.	M&S Galas, Watson
"	13	61	Motor & Strawberry Is.	S&M Galas
* Great Egret	<u>31F</u>	5	Motor I.	Galas
Turkey Vulture	6; 16; 23	3;261;283	Hamburg Hawkwatch	J Landau, Watson
* Osprey	29F	1	Allegany SP	Lazarczyk
Bald Eagle	1 - 16	2 ad; 4 juv	Strawberry I.	M&S Galas et al
"	3; 6	1 ad; 1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	11	1 ad, 5 juv	Pomfret	Moshers

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	11	2 ad (nest)	Perrysburg	Neveu
"	11 - 25	2 ad (nest)	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al
"	11; 26	2 ad (nest)	Dayton	Neveu
"	18; 26	3 ad, 3 juv	Allegheny Reservoir	Watson, Baird et al
"	22	1 (nest)	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson et al
"	25	1 ad, 1 juv	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
"	1 - 23	1 - 4	Throughout WNY	16 other reports
Red-shouldered Hawk	16	20	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	27	9	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	10 - 23	1 - 4	Throughout WNY	6 other reports
Red-tailed Hawk	8	1 leucistic	Farnham	Neveu
"	16; 23	45; 37	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Rough-legged Hawk	11	4	S. Dayton	Neveu
"	11	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Morgante
"	17; 23	10; 16	S. Dayton	Neveu
"	18	4	Conewango Creek	Watson, Baird (Catt.Co. BC)
"	4 - 26	1 - 3	Throughout WNY	11 other reports
Merlin	<u>1 - 30</u>	5 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	24	1	Buffalo	Galas
* Killdeer	9F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	9F	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	9F	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	10	1	Clarence	Watson
"	10	2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
* Wilson's Snipe	18F	20	Randolph	Watson, Baird (Catt.Co. BC)
* American Woodcock	10F	1	Alexander	Dart
"	10F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	10F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	10F; 11	1; 4	Pomfret	Moshers
"	11	6	Clarence	Rosenberg, Galas
Little Gull	30	3	Lewiston	Pawlicki
Bonaparte's Gull	30	12	Wilson	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	8; 11	7; 3	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg; Morgante
"	19	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	6	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	4	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11	3	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
"	30	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Glaucous Gull	5	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	8; 11	4; 1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg; Morgante
"	22	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Andrle
"	30	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Great Black-b. Gull	3; 6	21; 34	Tonawanda	M&S Galas; Galas
Great Horned Owl	5; 11; 26	1 (nest)	Allegany SP	Baird et al
"	11; 18; 21	1 (nest)	Perrysburg	Neveu
Long-eared Owl	5	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	11	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	19	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	4	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	11	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	12; 13	1; 1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4	1	Cambria	Galas, Henrik
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	31	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	31	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Pileated Woodpecker	10	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	12	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Eastern Phoebe	26F	1; 1	Hanover	Neveu
"	29; 31	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Shrike	9	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	11	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	1	Shelby	Pawlicki, Morien
"	24	1	Alabama Swamp area	Holmes
Common Raven	4	1	<u>Erie County Forest</u>	K Landau
"	18	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird et al (Catt. Co. BC)
"	29	3	Alfred	Brooks
Horned Lark	3	24	E. Bethany	Beattie
"	4	11	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	31	60	Pomfret	Mosher
"	8 - 31	1 - 11	Throughout WNY	7 other reports
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	6	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	J Landau
* Tree Swallow	28F	1	Bennington	Seamans
Carolina Wren	26	2	Hanover	Neveu
"	4 - 31	1	Throughout WNY	10 other reports
Winter Wren	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Golden-cr. Kinglet	22F	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	31	12	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Eastern Bluebird	3	4	Alexander	Beattie
"	4	5	Royalton	Pawlicki, Ensminger
"	11 - 30	1 - 4	Bethany	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	15;15;22	2; 2; 1	Hamburg; Eden; Eden	Andrle
"	18	4	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	29	1	Alfred	Brooks
Hermit Thrush	8	1	Hanover	Neveu
Gray Catbird	13	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Northern Mockingbird	10	1	Dunkirk	Mosher
"	18	1	Farnham	Neveu
* Eastern Towhee	14F	1	Portland	Neveu
Field Sparrow	31	2	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Fox Sparrow	14 - 30	8 recs; 1 each	Bethany	Beattie
"	23	1	Bethany	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	31	2	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Lapland Longspur	31	25	Pomfret	Mosher
Snow Bunting	5	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, J Landau
* Eastern Meadowlark	2F	2	Porter	M&S Galas
"	11	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
* Rusty Blackbird	12F	5	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	130	Shelby	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	19	38	Ransomville	S&M Galas
"	25	50	Shelby	D'Anna (BOS)

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Baltimore Oriole	8F	1	Porter	Labato
Purple Finch	4; 21	4; 8	Pomfret	Moshers
"	5	2	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	4	Bethany	Beattie
* Common Redpoll	31	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Pine Siskin	1 - 31	6 max	Colden	J&K Landau
"	1 - 31	3 - 10	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	22	1	Bennington	Seamans
"	25	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
* Evening Grosbeak	5	3	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	2	Allegany SP	S&M Galas

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**121**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**016**

**Total for the year 2006:**

**137**

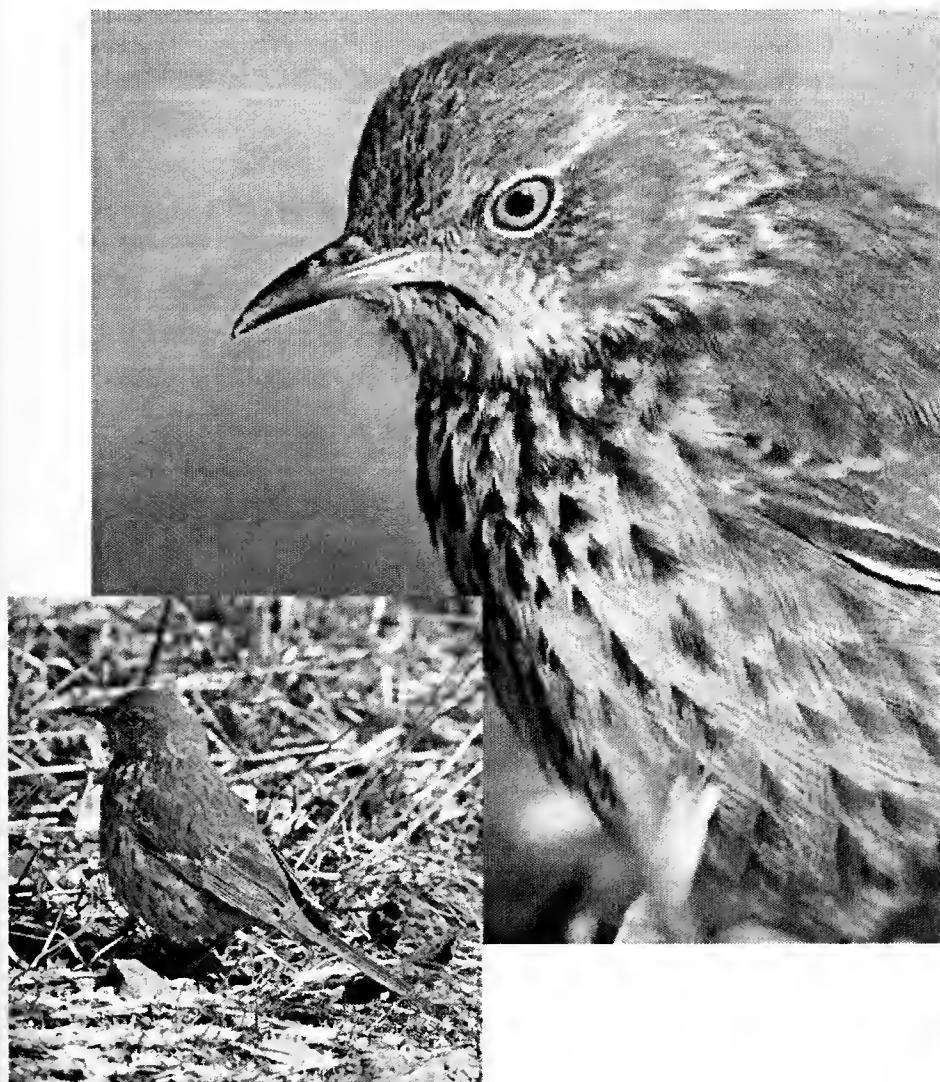
**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Editors Note I:** A Sage Thrasher record and two accompanying photographs were not received in time for the March issue of the *Prothonotary*, however, I've included below the photographs that accompanied Kayo Roy's and Brian Ahara's report on this species. The bird was originally discovered and identified by Brian in Port Weller, Ontario. The full bird photo was taken by Karl Egressy (inset) and the head and upper body shot was taken by Brandon Holden. This record will appear in the 2006 addendum to the BOS Noteworthy Records.

(*The Month: continued from page 28*)

As wintering species leave, early spring is stimulating our insects to stir from their winter dormancy bringing back the first specialists preying on this food source. Our first records of Eastern Phoebe on March 26th at Hanover (Neveu) and Tree Swallow in Bennington on the 28th (Seamans) hint at the changing season and the migration of passerines to come. Two Eastern Meadowlarks seen on the 2nd in Porter (Galas) and five Rusty Blackbirds on the 12th at Iroquois NWR (Yoerg, Henderson) were firsts for the year. An early Baltimore Oriole verified by Labato at Porter on March 8th was no doubt a welcome sight. He noted "the bird's bright coloration" making it easy to follow against a "drab background".

February added nine species to the BOS Territory for 2006, and March upped the total by an additional 16 which is just about the recent average additions for March. Over the previous five years, March has averaged 15.4 species added to the yearly records. Note that we need to boost our excitement level, but April has added an average 48.6 species and May an average of 68.8 species to the yearly records over the last five years.



**Editors Note II.** Please send me digital photographs of birds from the BOS study area for possible use in the *Prothonotary*. High quality photos of uncommon species (e.g., Northern Hawk Owl, Sage Thrasher) are especially befitting, although those of even more common species will be considered (Mourning Dove; March Prothonotary). As you are aware, judicious use of photographs can significantly enhance these otherwise, data-rich, issues. Please send them to my E-mail address [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu). Many Thanks!

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**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## **May – June Calendar**

- Mar 1 - May 15:** Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Rd. between Routes 5 & 20). Generally 10 AM - 3 PM weather permitting. Contact Jim Landau for additional info (941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)).
- May 21:** May Count. Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325 or [rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com)) All BOS members should participate.
- May 24:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Bill Burch will present a slide show, The History of the Buffalo Peregrine Falcons.
- June 2-4:** Allegany Nature Pilgrimage. For more information or to register visit [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org)
- June 9: Friday.** Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner. Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West Street - west bank of Welland Canal, Port Colborne, Ontario) Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations will be appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- June 14: Wednesday.** The last meeting, the Annual June Picnic will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve, and followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 5 May, 2006

### THE MONTH: April

by Bill Watson

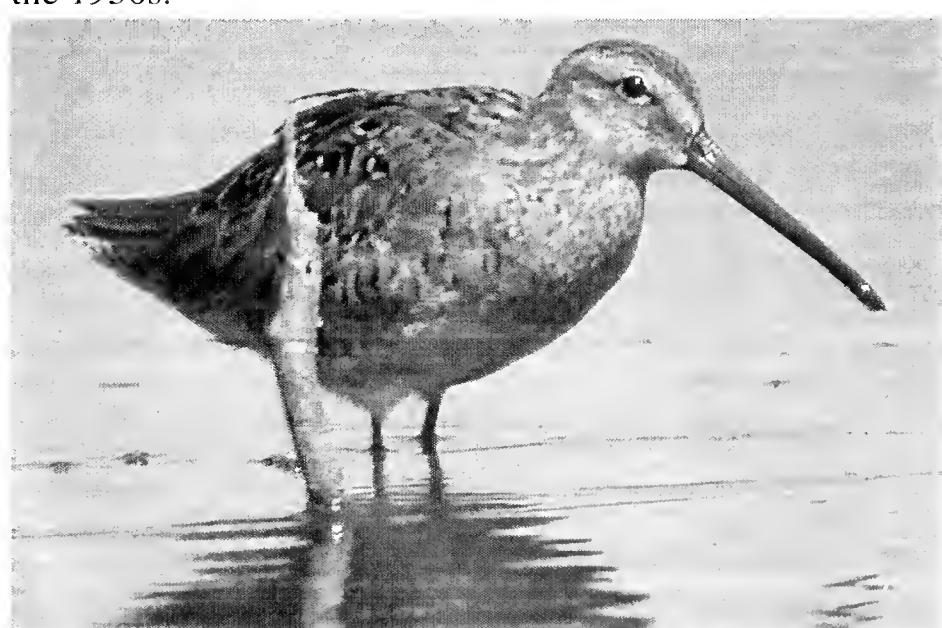
**The Weather:** April's average temperature was 48.0 °F (2.7 °F above normal) and we received 1.98 inches of melted precipitation (1.06 inches below average). It was the warmest April in ten years, and the tenth month in the last eleven to be warmer than normal. The 20th, 21st, and 30th had temperatures of 75 °F or greater. The meager tenth of an inch of snow, the least snow for April since 1998, was largely a result of a very warm and dry April. The month had 59% of possible sunshine (nine points above normal) making it (with the exception of last year's 60%) the sunniest April since 1976. Vegetation, flowers, and insects were about a week early due to the mild sunny weather, although moisture was becoming short by month's end.

The warm, dry, sunny weather was very favorable for early migration. There were 13 verification reports of exceptionally early migrants and no reports of late departures. Exceptional early birds were Hooded Warbler, Green Heron, Least Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Marsh Wren and our first spring record of Long-billed Dowitcher. This month's Noteworthy Records has an astonishing 18 species of warblers, which was well above the recent 10.8 average. (The only April since 1935 to have more warbler species was in 1990, when the average monthly temperature was 3.2 °F above average and the temperature reached 94 °F on April 28th, producing 19 warbler species.) On the 30th the temperature was 75 °F and David Neveu had 10 species of warblers at Saint Columbans in Sheridan, while Mike Zebehazy and Doug Happ had 11 species at Amherst State Park, including a Cape May Warbler and a Prothonotary Warbler. Combining those locations, a total of 14 warbler species were found.

**Early arrivals:** Our earliest ever Hooded Warbler was found by Richard Salembier April 23rd at Times Beach in Buffalo. Since nearly all

early migrants are males, it is odd that this bird was a female. Studying the bird as it foraged near the ground for an hour he noted (in part): "...the outer white rectrices of the tail which was fanned repeatedly" and "the black on the face..." that "formed an almost sideways 'J' starting at the top of the head/crown and sort of framing the auriculars." This bird probably migrated during the very warm and clear weather on the 20th and 21st (with temperatures of 75 °F and 78 °F respectively) and was forced to stop migrating on the 22nd and 23rd when it could not navigate in the cold (58 °F and 52 °F) and rainy weather.

Also on the 23rd Mike Morgante heard a singing Marsh Wren at Cayuga Pool in Iroquois NWR. This early arrival was probably the result of the same weather conditions that produced the early Hooded Warbler. He wrote in part that: "It gave a few syllables of 'chink-chink-chink' before going in to the 'sewing machine' portion of its song with a very fast rattle." There were only three years with earlier Marsh Wrens: two April 11, 1998 at Tonawanda WMA, two on the April 8, 1945 Count (one in Newstead and the other in Clarence) and one on the April 14, 1985 Count. Curiously there were many winter records of this species in the 1950s.



Long-billed Dowitcher photographed by Willie D'Anna on April 29, 2006 in the Town of Yates.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

President: Thomas O'Donnell  
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#### Count.

Broad-winged Hawks continue to appear early, requiring verification reports. Records of early arrivals were received from the 9th (1), 11th (1) and 12th (1) while 16 birds were reported from the Hamburg Hawk Watch on the 11th and 12th (but no verification reports were received). On the 13th an impressive 233 Broad-winged Hawks were reported from the Hamburg Hawk Watch.

**Rare Birds:** There has never been a record of a spring migrant **Long-billed Dowitcher**, documented by a photograph or specimen, in the BOS study area or even in New York State, until this spring. The one found by Willie D'Anna in the farm pond east of Niagara-Orleans County Line Road in the Town of Yates in Orleans County on April 29th is the first accepted spring record of Long-billed Dowitcher in the BOS archives, and if submitted, reviewed, and accepted by the New York State Avian Records Committee, it may be the first accepted record for New York State! In his verification report the similar Short-billed Dowitcher was eliminated because: "Alternate-plumage Short-billed Dowitcher lacks the dark bars on the sides of the upper breast (it shows spots there) and it also shows

The Least Sandpiper first spotted by Jim Pawlicki at the Kumph Shorebird area at Iroquois NWR on the 17th is only bettered by two seen April 13, 1977 at Times Beach by Bob Andrle. The only record earlier than the Northern Rough-winged Swallow I saw this year on the 6th at the Hamburg Hawk Watch, was the one seen by Tom LeBlanc at Allegheny State Park last year. The Prothonotary Warbler observed by many birders and documented by three of them at Amherst State Park on the 30th is only our second record of Prothonotary Warbler in April. The other was at Tifft Nature Preserve on April 26 and 28 in 1987.

Other unusually early birds requiring written verification reports include: three Merlins at two different locations, a Nashville Warbler on the 24th, a Palm Warbler on the 29th and on the 9th the less exceptional Pine Warbler on the April

buffy fringes to the scapular feathers, not white" and "...has a very different call." There are three undocumented spring reports for New York State and one late spring report: on April 30-May 9, 1976, a breeding plumage adult was seen and heard singing at Tobay Pond, Long Island, by Lore Schore, Wilma Baumann, *et al.* (*Kingbird* 26:179); on May 15, 1977, one was seen and heard at Jamaica Bay WR by Tom Davis and Ken Able (*Kingbird* 27:174); on May 13, 1988, one was observed in Perinton, Monroe County, by Robert and Susan Spahn (*Kingbird* 38:196); and on the unusual date of June 23, 1982, three were observed at Shinnecock Inlet, Long Island, by Paul Buckley *fide* Tom Davis (*Kingbird* 32:302). (The only documented Long-billed Dowitcher submitted to and reviewed by the New York State Avian Records Committee, one on May 30, 1979 at El Dorado Shores, Jefferson County, was not accepted.) This species is probably casual in New York during spring, and with recent improvements in both field identification techniques (distinguishing it from Short-billed Dowitcher) and photography, there should be more documented records in the future. In fact a week or two prior to the discovery of the Orleans County bird, several Long-billed Dowitchers were photographed at Montezuma NWR. These photos are available on the web, and like D'Anna's photos, they indicate that the birds are in a transitional plumage, having only partially acquired their breeding garb. This, in itself, is suggestive of Long-billed, instead of Short-billed Dowitcher which usually has completed its molt into breeding plumage when it is seen in the region during spring (D'Anna 2006).

Never before have there been **four American White Pelicans** in the Buffalo Ornithological Society study area. These pelicans appeared at Dunkirk Harbor spending most of their time on the breakwall (with their Pelecaniformes cousin Double-crested Cormorants) from April 13-15. They were observed by many birders but only documented by Jerry Lazarczyk and me. BOS records do include two occurrences of three American White Pelicans, three occurrences of two, and 14 of single birds. This species appears to be sporadically eruptive with four records between 1860 and 1894 followed by a 47-year hiatus, six between 1941



American White Pelicans photographed by Jim Pawlicki on April 14, 2006 at Dunkirk Harbor.

and 1957 followed by a 26-year hiatus, and nine since 1983.

At the Hamburg Hawk Watch on the 6th among the Turkey Vultures an unusual vulture was noted: "even with the naked eye [it] could be picked out because the wing span looked noticeably less than the Turkey Vultures and the wings showed much less dihedral...than the wings of a Turkey Vulture." There are only two other April records of **Black Vulture**: one in the Town of Alabama on April 7, 1984 and one at the Hamburg Hawk Watch on April 19, 2004. Only since the early 1980s has Black Vulture been observed as a February, March, or April migrant at northern hawk watches.

The April 9th Count produced two records of Northern Goshawk: an immature in the Town of Bethany in Genesee County and an adult at Canadaway Creek State WMA, Arkwright in Chautauqua County. Only Northern Goshawks in adult plumage in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties do not require a written verification report.

The Eared Grebe observed at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant is the eleventh spring migrant to be found since 1964; however, this species is becoming a more common spring migrant in recent years, and was also observed in the spring of 2000, 2002 and 2003 this century.

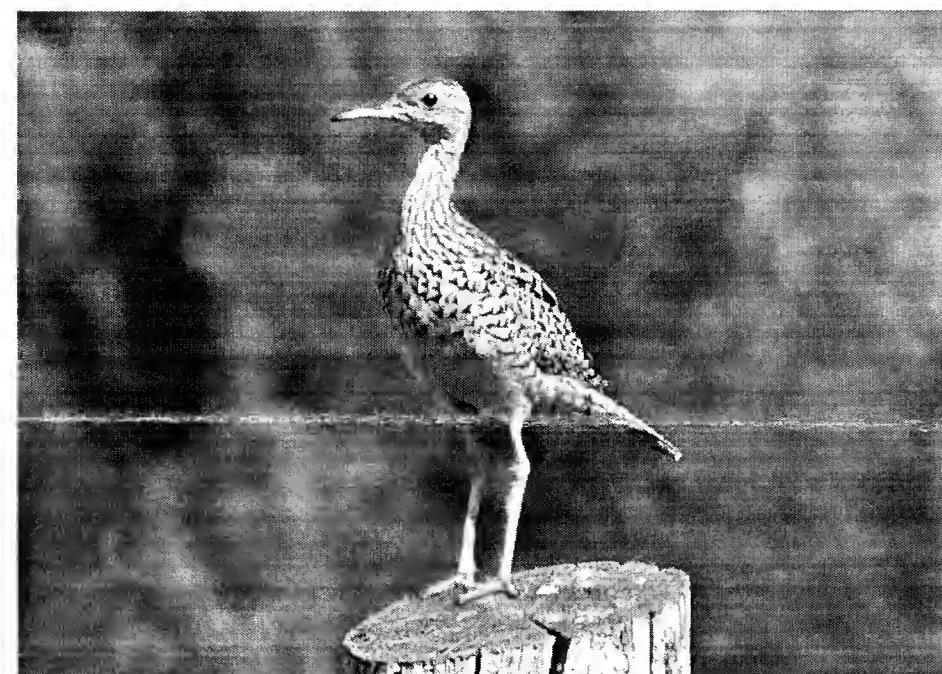
Two Eastern Palm Warblers (*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*) reported this month at Amherst State Park (22nd) and Lakeside Memorial Park (29th) are the most individuals reported in a single season. (The author did not check pre-1964 records.) These brightly colored subspecies represent the 8th and 9th records of this race since 1964. Since then there have been two records in May and October, and now five records in April. Although fairly common along the Atlantic coast, it is very rare in our area.

This April was an excellent month for Golden Eagles and Sandhill Cranes. Golden Eagle reports were accepted for the 17th at Tonawanda WMA and later a couple of miles north in Royalton, on the 21st at Wilson, and on the 29th (for the first time ever) at Tifft Nature Preserve. Two gliding Sandhill Cranes pleased three raptor observers at the Hamburg Hawk Watch at 1:33 p.m. April 13th. On the 15th three cranes were studied and photographed as they flew over Wilson.

It's a good day when you find one Greater White-fronted Goose, but it's an even better day when you find three. Willie D'Anna had the latter experience on April 2nd when he found three of these geese in the Town of Yates along Countyline Road. Although Forster's Tern is uncommon during late summer, spring migrants like the one identified at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on the 23rd are considered very rare and care must be taken to distinguish them from Common and Arctic Terns. The final rarity requiring a written verification report on this list was the gutturally croaking Common Raven seen flying across Route 19 in the Village of Warsaw on the April Count. Nearly all of the above rare birds are being found more frequently in our region then in the past.



*Red-headed Woodpecker (above) and Upland Sandpiper (below)*  
*photographed by Kayo Roy in April, 2006 at Point Abino, ONT and*  
*Bismarck, ONT respectively.*



I acknowledge the following sources for providing information and suggestions in the writing of The Month.

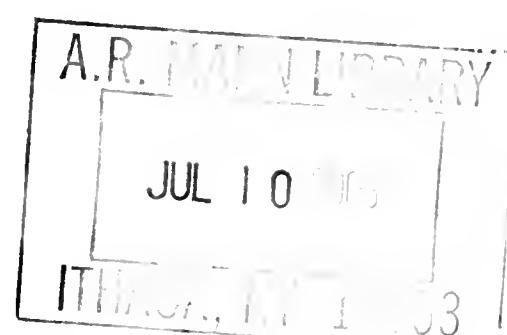
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Suggs, David, *et al.* 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicate nest(s).
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	2	3	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
Snow Goose	4	1	Yates	Watson
Tundra Swan	2	6	N. Collins	Morgante
Blue-winged Teal	17; 29	22; 13	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	17;23;29	93; 25; 27	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	17	70	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Green-winged Teal	3	21	Pomfret	Neveu
"	17; 29	31; 31	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Redhead	17	8	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	2	50	N. Collins	Morgante
"	8; 12	54; 30	Tifft NP	Watson
Lesser Scaup	17	111	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Surf Scoter	14	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
"	17	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
White-winged Scoter	8	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Lazarczyk
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Long-tailed Duck	2	2	S. Dayton	Neveu
"	17	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Bufflehead	17	94	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	6; 11; 23	8; 11; 15	Iroquois NWR	Roberson et al
"	17; 23; 29	352; 150; 124	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Morgante
Red-throated Loon	28	2	Ft. Niagara SP	Yoerg
Red-necked Grebe	2	160	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	2	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	2	6	Wilson	Yoerg
"	4	88	Somerset	Watson
* <u>Amer. White Pelican</u>	13 - 15	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk
D.-crested Cormorant	24	240	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	14	542	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
* American Bittern	23F	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	23F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	26	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Great Blue Heron	3	48	Motor I.	Galas
Great Egret	1 - 26	5 - 38	Motor I.	Galas, Watson
"	13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	23	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	1	Machias	DeSha
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Green Heron	21	1	Wilson	Potter
"	21	1	Silver Creek	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	1	Hanover	Neveu
* Black-cr. Night-Heron	3F; 4; 24	2; 20; 28	Motor I.	Galas; Watson; Watson
"	11	102	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	11	86	Goat I.	M&S Galas
* <u>Black Vulture</u>	6	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Turkey Vulture	1	22	Bethany	Beattie
"	6; 13	548; 524	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
Osprey	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Seamans
"	2	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	2; 6	1; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Galas et al
"	20	18	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
Bald Eagle	1 - 28	2 ad, 1 yg (nest)	Machias	DeSha
"	6 - 29	1 ad, 1 imm (nest)	Iroquois NWR	Roberson, Watson et al
"	16	2 ad, 3 yg (nest)	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	18	1 (nest)	Dayton	Neveu
"	2 - 26	12 other recs; 4 max	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Cooper's Hawk	26	2 ad. (nest)	Kenmore	Watson
Broad-winged Hawk	<u>11</u>	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	DiTommaso
"	<u>12</u>	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	13; 20	233; 767	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
Rough-legged Hawk	2	7	Porter	Yoerg
"	2	6	S. Dayton	Neveu
* <u>Golden Eagle</u>	17F	1	Tonawanda WMA& Royalton	Watson
"	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso
Merlin	<u>5</u> - 24	2 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	17	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	20	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson et al
"	21	1	Alfred	Brooks
Peregrine Falcon	25	1	Pomfret	Mosher, Goetz
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
* Virginia Rail	23F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	26	10	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
* Sora	26F	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
* Common Moorhen	20F	1	Carrollton	Baird
"	23	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	24	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Dart, Beattie
* <u>Sandhill Crane</u>	13F	2	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson, DiTommaso
"	15	3	Wilson	DiTommaso
* Greater Yellowlegs	2F	1	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	2	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
* Lesser Yellowlegs	5F	1	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	22	1	Sherman	Neveu
* Solitary Sandpiper	22F	1	Sherman	Neveu
* Spotted Sandpiper	22F	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	23	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
* Least Sandpiper	<u>17</u> F	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	17; 24	2; 25	Iroquois NWR	Roberson, Watson et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Purple Sandpiper	11	2	Goat I.	Watson
"	28	2	Goat I.	Yoerg
* Dunlin	17F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17F	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
* <u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	29F	1	Yates	D'Anna, Lazarczyk
Wilson's Snipe	2; 4	18; 22	S. Dayton	Neveu; Neveu
"	20	31	Sherman	Neveu
Bonaparte's Gull	17; 29	40; 9	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	5	1000	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Iceland Gull	4; 14; 15	3; 3; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Moshers et al
"	11	2; 1	Goat I.	Watson; M&S Galas
"	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	27	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Lesser Black-b. Gull	14	8	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	16	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Glaucous Gull	11	2	Goat I.	Galas et al
"	14 - 19	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	14	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
* Caspian Tern	8F; 14	2; 33	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson et al
"	18	18	Wilson	Galas et al
"	28	<u>106</u>	Cattaraugus Creek (mouth)	Neveu
Common Tern	13	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	14	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
* Forster's Tern	<u>23F</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
* Black Tern	29F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	29	4	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson
Short-eared Owl	2	1	Shelby	Lazarczyk, T&S O'Donnell
"	28	2	Porter	Yoerg
* Chimney Swift	27F	3	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	27F	13	Goat I.	Roberson
"	30	3	Times Beach NP	Galas et al
"	30	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	29F	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Red-headed Wdpkr.	14	2	Pt. Gratiot	Watson et al
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	27F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Rising, Galas
"	30	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
* Eastern Kingbird	30F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	DiTommaso, Landau
* Blue-headed Vireo	19F	2	Ward	Brooks
* Warbling Vireo	27F	2	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	29	1	Goat I.	Roberson, Welte
Common Raven	6	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	8	2	Ward	Brooks
"	30	3	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
* Purple Martin	3F	2	Tillman WMA	Salembier
"	14	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Tree Swallow	1	16	Alexander	Beattie
"	1	16	Wellsville	Brooks
"	2	18	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Seamans
"	10	65	Sheridan	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* N. Rough-w. Swallow	<u>6F</u>	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	7	2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	16	44	Sheridan	Neveu
* Bank Swallow	<u>23F</u>	5	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	23; 29	5; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante; D'Anna
* Cliff Swallow	<u>23F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	28	4	Tonawanda I.	Watson
Barn Swallow	14	7	Dunkirk	Watson, Pawlicki et al
"	16	1	Harmony	Berry
"	16	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Carolina Wren	2	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	11	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	14	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson
"	18 - 30	1 - 3	Times Beach NP	Andrle, Hess et al
"	22	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Morgante
"	29	1	Amherst SP	Rising, Galas
House Wren	<u>21F</u>	1	R T Peterson Inst.	Berry
"	<u>21F</u>	1	Alfred	Brooks
Winter Wren	2	3	Evangola SP	Morgante
"	8	3	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu, Lazarczyk
"	8	2	Tifft NP	Watson
* Marsh Wren	<u>23F</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	<u>26; 29</u>	1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Pawlicki, Watson
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	<u>8F</u>	2; 1	Tifft NP	Watson; Salembier
"	12	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
"	12	2	Goat I.	Watson
"	12	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	<u>18F</u>	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	20	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	24; 27	5; 15	Goat I.	Roberson
* Swainson's Thrush	<u>30F</u>	1	Times Beach NP	Galas, Bogan
Hermit Thrush	<u>22; 29</u>	2; 8	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
"	23	5	Goat I.	Roberson
"	29	7	Amherst SP	Galas, Rising
"	30	15	Tifft NP & Times Beach NP	Watson, Pawlicki
* Wood Thrush	<u>26F</u>	1	Newstead	G&M Coniglio
"	30	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Mockingbird	4	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	10	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	15; 16	1; 1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon; Watson
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
Brown Thrasher	14	1	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	5	Wainfleet (Ont)	Lazarczyk, Partridge
* American Pipit	<u>2F</u>	60	Porter	Yoerg
"	8	2	Pomfret	Neveu, Lazarczyk
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
* Blue-winged Warbler	<u>30F</u>	2	Sheridan	Neveu
* Nashville Warbler	<u>24F</u>	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Goat I.	Yoerg
* Northern Parula	<u>30F</u>	1	Amherst SP	Zebehazy, Happ

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
* Yellow Warbler	23F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	24	1	R T Peterson Inst.	Berry
"	24	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	30F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Cape May Warbler	30F	1	Amherst SP	Watson et al
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	30F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	30F	1	Amherst SP	Zebehazy, Happ
* Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	22F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
"	22F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	22F	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	23	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	23	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Blackburnian Warbler	30F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	30F	3	Allegany SP	Baird
"	30F	2	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
Pine Warbler	13	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	15	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	15; 16	1; 5	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	22	5	Sturgeon Pt.	Morgante
* Palm Warbler	21F	2	Wilson	Potter
"	22	1	Sturgeon Pt.	Morgante
"	22	8	Sheridan	Neveu
* <i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	22F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Lakeside Memorial Pk.	Andrle
* Black-and-white Warb.	23F	2	Tifft NP	Salembier, Watson
"	24	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	30	7	Sheridan	Neveu
* Prothonotary Warbler	30F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Watson
* Ovenbird	30F	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso
"	30	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	30	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
* Northern Waterthrush	28F; 30	1; 2	Tifft NP	Watson et al
"	29	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	30	4	Ashford	DeSha
* La. Waterthrush	29F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
* Common Yellowthroat	30F	1	Times Beach NP	Galas, Bogan
"	30F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
* Hooded Warbler	23F	1	Times Beach NP	Salembier
Eastern Towhee	2	5	Evangola SP	Morgante
* Vesper Sparrow	5F	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
* Savannah Sparrow	5F; 8	1; 1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	19	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Fox Sparrow	4	6	Wilson (f)	D'Anna
"	19	3	Tifft NP	Watson
White-thr. Sparrow	4 - 30	4 max	Bethany	Beattie
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	30F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	30F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	30F	1	Hamburg	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30F	2	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg
"	30F	3	Silver Creek	Neveu
Rusty Blackbird	2	10	Hartland	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	16	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
Purple Finch	14	11	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
Common Redpoll	1	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Pine Siskin	1; 16	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	1 - 26	9 max	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	28; 30	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie
"	29	6	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	30	2	Bush Hill SF (f)	Yoerg

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**137**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**065**

**Total for the year 2006:**

**202**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Editors Note:** Birders should be aware of and report color-banded birds from the BOS study area - be especially alert for banded migrant shorebirds. All the material below has been reproduced from <http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/pasp/index.en.html>

Color banded shorebirds can and should be reported to the Bird Banding Lab and the Pan American Shorebird Program. The bird banding lab has info on birds banded in the US with USFWS bands and associated color markers, while the Canadian Wildlife Service coordinates the color-marking for all shorebirds in the Americas through the Pan American Shorebird Program. More information can be found at the following web sites. The US Banding Lab has an online form for reporting color banded shorebirds.

Pan American: [www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/paspdc29s01.en.html](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/nature/migratorybirds/paspdc29s01.en.html)

US Banding Lab: [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl/)

### Pan American Shorebird Program

Since few species of shorebirds are hunted in North America, the traditional method of marking birds with metal leg bands was not an efficient way for researchers to get reports on their birds from other areas and trace their migration routes. For this reason, shorebirds are usually marked with colour bands and/or colour 'flags' (colour bands with a tab of varying length that sticks out from the leg) that can be easily seen from a distance.

The Pan American Shorebird Program (PASP) was created in the mid 1980s to develop a standardized bird banding system. The PASP assigned each country in the

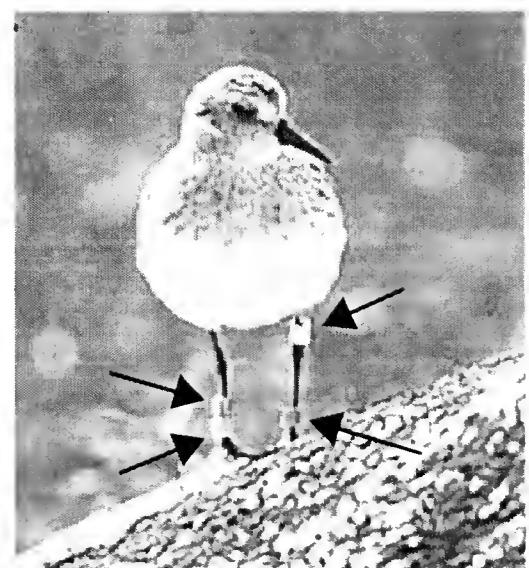
Americas a different colour flag code to make it easier to identify the banders of marked shorebirds. (For example, Canada uses a white flag; French Guiana has a light green flag over a dark blue flag). Within each country, colour band combinations are also organized and assigned to specific banders. Prior to the PASP, it was extremely difficult to identify who banded the shorebirds and in what country the banding occurred.

### How to report a colour banded shorebird sighting:

Note species, location of sighting, date and any other information. Describe each band: type (metal, colour band, flag), colours (as exact as possible - light green, dark blue), and location on bird (bird's left or right leg, upper or lower leg, above or below other bands). See example of four color bands on Semipalmated Sandpiper below. Note if you are unsure of any bands or if you did not see all parts of both legs clearly.

Submit your information to: PASP, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, 115 Perimeter Road, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0X4, Canada

Photo: C. L. Gratto-Trevor; Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service



# Report of the 2006 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 9, 2006

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Mike Hamilton

## Weather Synopsis

Weather on count day this year was unremarkable, if not outright pleasant compared to the rainy conditions of the previous 48 hours. High pressure dominated the count area bringing fair skies, cool temperatures, and low humidity. Frosty conditions during the early morning hours gave way to temperatures in the mid 40's by afternoon returning to the lower 30's by midnight. Winds backed from northwest to south during period becoming fairly brisk during the afternoon.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:44 AM EDT      Sunset: 7:51 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	32	23	30.15	NW6	
3:00 am	Clear	30	22	30.16	NW3	
6:00 am	Partly Cloudy	28	22	30.19	Calm	
9:00 am	Clear	34	26	30.24	Calm	
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	41	28	30.25	W8	
3:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	44	26	30.21	SW12	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	45	27	30.20	SW14	
9:00 pm	Clear	36	27	30.23	SW7	
12:00 am	Clear	34	27	30.22	S9	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

### G e e s e - H e r o n s

Snow Goose	5	(4)	Bufflehead	1312
Canada Goose	19839		Common Goldeneye	159
Mute Swan (adults)	15		Hooded Merganser	406
Tundra Swan	13		Common Merganser	329
Wood Duck	398		Red-breasted Merganser	4675
Gadwall	78		Ruddy Duck	159
American Wigeon	284		unspecified ducks	288 (3,6,10)
American Black Duck	67		Ring-necked Pheasant	23
Mallard	1295		Ruffed Grouse	18
Blue-winged Teal	93		Wild Turkey	223
Northern Shoveler	257		Red-throated Loon	20 (3,4)
Northern Pintail	97		Common Loon	81
Green-winged Teal	172		Pied-billed Grebe	80
Canvasback	8	(5,9,17)	Horned Grebe	94
Redhead	56		Red-necked Grebe	248
Ring-necked Duck	577		<b>Eared Grebe</b>	1 (13)
Greater Scaup	138		Double-crested Cormorant	973
Lesser Scaup	234		Great Blue Heron	420
unspecified scaup	145	(10,22,25)	Great Egret	24
Surf Scoter	*F	1 (4)	<b>Green Heron</b>	*F 2 (12)
White-winged Scoter		239	Black-crowned Night-Heron	149
Long-tailed Duck		736		

### V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s

Turkey Vulture	2017		Sharp-shinned Hawk	52
Osprey	20		Cooper's Hawk	47
Bald Eagle	22		<b>Northern Goshawk</b>	2 (13,20)
Northern Harrier	51		Red-shouldered Hawk	34

<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>	*F	1	(7)	<b>Merlin</b>	4	(7,11)
Red-tailed Hawk		429		Peregrine Falcon	4	
Rough-legged Hawk		12		unspecified hawks	1	(22)
American Kestrel		180		American Coot	71	
<b>Plovers - Terns</b>						
Killdeer		330		Ring-billed Gull	56836	
Greater Yellowlegs		14		Herring Gull	7860	
Lesser Yellowlegs		13		Iceland Gull	4	(3,9,20)
Pectoral Sandpiper	*F	16	(7,10)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	(6,7,9)
Wilson's Snipe		29		Glaucous Gull	4	(3,9)
American Woodcock		28		Great Black-backed Gull	201	
Little Gull		1	(3)	Caspian Tern	17	
Bonaparte's Gull		3441		Common Tern	*F	1 (7)
<b>Pigeons - Swallows</b>						
Rock Pigeon		1561		Pileated Woodpecker	53	
Mourning Dove		1667		Eastern Phoebe	407	
Eastern Screech-Owl		8	(6,20,24)	Blue Jay	1000	
Great Horned Owl		26		American Crow	3130	
Barred Owl		6		Common Raven	26	
Short-eared Owl		4	(3)	Horned Lark	69	
Belted Kingfisher		58		<i>E.a. alpestris</i>	1	(4)
Red-headed Woodpecker		4		<i>E.a. praticola</i>	3	(4)
Red-bellied Woodpecker		199		Purple Martin	39	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		107		Tree Swallow	806	
Downy Woodpecker		441		N. Rough-winged Swallow	20	
Hairy Woodpecker		138		Barn Swallow	*F	16
Northern Flicker		319				
<b>Tits - Waxwings</b>						
Black-capped Chickadee		1803		Eastern Bluebird	214	
Tufted Titmouse		225		Hermit Thrush	9	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		88		American Robin	7379	
White-breasted Nuthatch		310		Gray Catbird	4	(19,28)
Brown Creeper		146		Northern Mockingbird	24	(19,20,28)
Carolina Wren		28		Brown Thrasher	*F	5
Winter Wren		39		European Starling	7098	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		683		American Pipit	1	(12)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		13		Cedar Waxwing	202	
<b>Warblers - House Sparrows</b>						
Yellow-rumped Warbler		17		Snow Bunting	4	(5)
<b>Pine Warbler</b>		1	(22)	Northern Cardinal	1020	
Eastern Towhee		19		Red-winged Blackbird	5227	
American Tree Sparrow		160		Eastern Meadowlark	110	
Chipping Sparrow		104		Rusty Blackbird	113	
Field Sparrow		65		Common Grackle	4375	
Vesper Sparrow		3	(3,5,26)	Brown-headed Cowbird	1062	
Savannah Sparrow		25		Purple Finch	140	
Fox Sparrow		104		House Finch	528	
Song Sparrow		2626		Common Redpoll	1	(19)
Swamp Sparrow		83		Pine Siskin	11	(2,3,27)
White-throated Sparrow		346		American Goldfinch	1139	
White-crowned Sparrow		27		Evening Grosbeak	16	(19,24)
Dark-eyed Junco		2323		House Sparrow	1390	
unspecified sparrows		3	(20)	unspecified birds	1	(5)
Lapland Longspur		12	(3,4,5)			

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total Species Observed: 142  
 Total Individual Birds Observed: 155,600  
 Number of Observers: 256

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, compare this year's records with those for 1997-2006 and those for 1935-2006. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2006 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

#### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest counts: Northern Shoveler, 257 (6 x ave.); Great Egret, 24 (12 x ave.); Bald Eagle, 22 (7 x ave.); Cooper's Hawk, 47 (4 x ave.); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 3 (13 x ave.); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 199 (7 x ave.); Pileated Woodpecker, 53 (4 x ave.); Common Raven, 26 (13 x ave.); Tufted Titmouse, 225 (7 x ave.); Winter Wren, 39 (4 x ave.)

Lowest counts: None

Rare count sightings: Eared Grebe, 1 (2nd sighting, 1<sup>st</sup> sighting was 2 in 1994)

#### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES IN LAST DECADE

Highest counts: Mute Swan, 15 (2 x ave.); Northern Shoveler, 257 (1.5 x ave.); Great Egret, 24 (2 x ave.); Bald Eagle, 22 (2 x ave.); Cooper's Hawk, 47 (2 x ave.); Northern Goshawk, 2 (2 x ave.); Red-shouldered Hawk, 34 (1.8 x ave.); Merlin, 4 (2 x ave.); Ring-billed Gull, 56836 (1.5 x ave.); Herring Gull, 7860 (2 x ave.); Iceland Gull, 4 (2 x ave.); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 3 (2 x ave.); Glaucous Gull, 4 (4 x ave.); Great Horned Owl, 26 (2 x ave.); Short-eared Owl, 4 (2 x ave.); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 199 (2 x ave.); Downy Woodpecker, 441 (1.2 x ave.); Hairy Woodpecker, 138 (1.6 x ave.); Pileated Woodpecker, 53 (1.9 x ave.); Common Raven, 26 (2 x ave.); Tufted Titmouse, 225 (2 x ave.); White-breasted Nuthatch, 310 (1.5 x ave.); Brown Creeper, 146 (2 x ave.); Winter Wren, 39 (2 x ave.); Golden-crowned Kinglet, 683 (2 x ave.); Fox Sparrow, 104 (2.5 x ave.); Song Sparrow, 2626 (1.4 x ave.); White-throated Sparrow, 346 (2 x ave.); White-crowned Sparrow, 27 (2 x ave.)

Lowest counts: Canvasback, 8 (12% of ave.); Ring-necked Duck, 577 (62% of ave.); American Coot, 71 (18% of ave.); Little Gull, 1 (11% of ave.); Bonaparte's Gull, 3441 (23% of ave.); Belted Kingfisher, 58 (64% of ave.); Northern Flicker, 319 (66% of ave.); Vesper Sparrow, 3 (27% of ave.); Rusty Blackbird, 113 (19% of ave.)

Rare count sightings: Eared Grebe, 1 (1st sighting)

#### NOTEABLE SPECIES AVERAGE CHANGES (entire count period / last decade):

**INCREASES:** Mute Swan, 2/7 Wood Duck, 147/347; Gadwall, 26/70; Mallard, 767/1323; Northern Shoveler, 46/173; Green-winged Teal, 86/173; Ring-necked Duck, 509/932; Lesser Scaup, 769/1358; White-winged Scoter, 107/509; Long-tailed Duck, 1008/2579; Bufflehead, 1010/3086; Hooded Merganser, 128/239; Ruddy Duck, 77/361; Wild Turkey, 73/243; Red-throated Loon, 3/9; Common Loon, 32/73; Red-necked Grebe, 35/194; Double-crested Cormorant 153/941; Great Blue Heron, 171/369; Great Egret, 2/9; Black-crowned Night-Heron, 48/155; Turkey Vulture, 285/1098 Osprey, 9/24; Bald Eagle, 3/11; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 31/85; Cooper's Hawk, 12/27; Broad-winged Hawk, 26/176; Red-tailed Hawk, 179/327; American Coot, 183/397; Greater Yellowlegs, 14/31; Little Gull, 3/9; Bonaparte's Gull, 4520/14703; Great Black-backed Gull, 62/205; Caspian Tern, 7/34; Mourning Dove, 764/1617; Barred Owl, 2/6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 23/99; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 23/78; Pileated Woodpecker, 12/28; Eastern Phoebe, 132/270; Common Raven, 2/13; Tree Swallow, 689/1515; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 10/50; Barn Swallow, 19/44; Tufted Titmouse, 34/138; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 22/57; Carolina Wren, 5/17; Winter Wren, 11/22; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 15/39; Hermit Thrush, 8/19; Gray Catbird, 1/3; Northern Mockingbird, 6/23; Brown Thrasher, 2/5; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 7/20; Chipping Sparrow, 50/181; Swamp Sparrow, 39/99; White-throated Sparrow, 62/158; Northern Cardinal, 382/765; Rusty Blackbird, 280/583; Purple Finch, 100/186

**DECREASES:** Tundra Swan, 93/32; American Black Duck, 281/52; Northern Pintail, 1149/363; Canvasback, 395/68; Redhead, 132/37; Greater Scaup 1288/513; Common Goldeneye, 901/352; Common Merganser, 1149/416; Ring-necked Pheasant, 89/26; Pectoral Sandpiper, 47/12; Horned Lark, 195/90; American Tree Sparrow, 393/171; Vesper Sparrow, 61/11; Snow Bunting, 20/3; Eastern Meadowlark, 401/146; Red Crossbill, 6/2; Common Redpoll, 119/6; Pine Siskin, 90/15; Evening Grosbeak, 480/102

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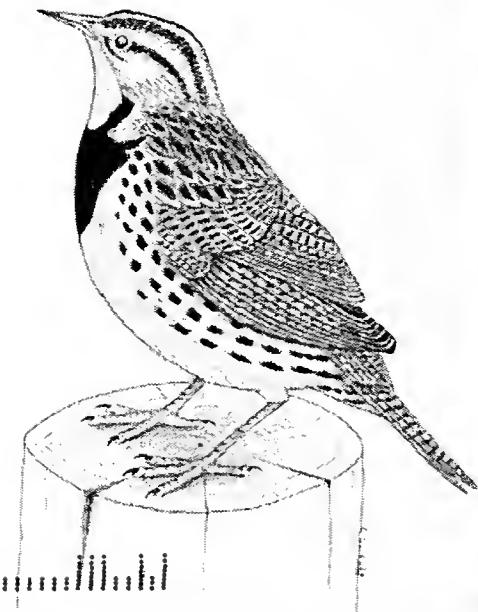
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## July - August Calendar

### July 30, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.

Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

**Aug. 20: BOS August Shorebird Count.** Start at 6:30 AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: llandon@daemen.edu

**Aug. 27: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

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### THE MONTH: May

by *Gerry Rising*

Steve McLaughlin's National Weather Service summary says it all: "May was yet another quiet and benign month and closed out a very pleasant spring." The data bear him out: temperature average 60°, 3° above normal; rainfall 1.9 inches, less than 60% of the normal 3.35 inches. There was no measurable rain at all for the first ten days of the month. Weekend birders were especially well served: 6 of the 8 Saturdays and Sundays were essentially rain-free. The month ended on a record high: 91° on the 30th the warmest for that date in almost 100 years. Winds were "light to moderate" and Lake Erie ended at 57°, 3° above normal.

Great weather but it brought problems for birders. I do not recall the foliage being as lush and advanced as it was this year. There also seemed to me to be fewer fall-out mornings, especially late in the month, and the birds seemed to pass through unobserved. Normally, for example, there are a few mid-month days when the songs of Tennessee Warblers abound in my neighborhood; this year I heard none. Also I noted remarkably few Least Flycatchers, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers and I found Indigo Buntings later even than normal. (While May Count numbers seem to confirm the dearth of those warblers they contradict me about the other two species. Not a good box score.)

One more personal observation: the number and quality of reports including many photographs is most encouraging

and coverage of at least the New York part of our region is broader than I recall it in my almost 20 years of writing these summaries. Here are a few highlights: Looking for the Tricolored Heron that was first found on the 12th at Buckhorn and recorded again on the May Count on the 21st led two birders to the

remarkable observation there on the 25th of a Harlequin Duck, normally a rare winter visitor to this state. A Cattle Egret was found at Beaver Island on the 18th.

The Ripley and Hamburg Hawk Watches (full reports below) provide interesting insights into the spring raptor migration. Turkey Vulture numbers continue to climb, making up over half of each count, Ripley recording a remarkable 12,091 and Hamburg 9,160. For most species it is difficult to compare observations because they are reported differently but, where results show similar trends, both observation points note decreases in Northern Harrier (Ripley -20%, Hamburg -34%), Broad-winged Hawk (-51%, -10%), Red-tailed Hawk (-30%, -10%), and Rough-legged Hawk. Rough-legs were down from 37 in 2005 to 8 this year at Ripley and, although they show no decrease at Hamburg from last year, they are down there to 40 this year from 95 in 2004. Although Hamburg showed little difference in its Bald Eagle count, Ripley's rose 87% to 114, and the May Count total of 19 clearly indicates that this species



Adult Common Tern (May 5th in Port Weller, ONT) and juvenile Bald Eagle (May 30th in Town of Wilson, NY) photographed by Kayo Roy and Willie D'Anna, respectively.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrlé  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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see a few Black Terns reported from areas other than Iroquois NWR.

No Olive-sided Flycatchers again this spring, but the usual couple of records of White-eyed Vireo (7th at Wainfleet Bog, 14th at Tonawanda WMA). There were what seem to me to be an unusual number of records of Gray-cheeked Thrush this month.

Despite the foliage problems, warblers were well represented this month. Despite many complaints about the dearth of warblers on Count day, all expected species were recorded. Judging from the reports, the Blue-winged Warbler seems not to have completely displaced the Golden-winged Warbler and this month we have only one hybrid report. The Count, however, provides a reasonable blue-wing to golden-wing population ratio of 51:1. Clearly the best warbler report of the month was the Connecticut Warbler found in Wilson on the 25th.

The names of our colleagues who provided these observations and the basis for this report appear in the Noteworthy Records report.

has retaken its old breeding grounds.

Although I heard of several Sandhill Crane reports, only one was accompanied by a verification report. That one was at Iroquois NWR on May 11.

Shorebird reports are always thin in spring, but a few good observations were recorded: single Black-bellied Plovers in Section 21 on the Count and at Iroquois on the 29th; Upland Sandpipers at Tillman on the 30th; and both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes. A Wilson's was reported from Iroquois on the 6th and then 3 were found on the Count in Section 1. Two red-necks were reported on the 26th at the Batavia WWTP.

A late Lesser Black-backed Gull and a late Iceland Gull were recorded at Olcott on the 14th and 17th respectively, and a Forster's Tern was reported at the Batavia WWTP on the 26th. It is encouraging to

## RIPLEY HAWK WATCH: SPRING 2006

by Gil Randell

The Ripley Hawk Watch (RHW) is located on the south shore of Lake Erie, about 60 miles southwest of Buffalo, NY. The watch consists of five main sites located between the lakeshore and the top of the escarpment about three miles south of the lakeshore. Each site has certain advantages associated with different weather and wind conditions. If conditions warrant and the watch has sufficient manpower, several sites can be worked at one time. Mobile radios supplied by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute allow coordination between different sites and help avoid duplication of counts.

As of June 2006, the industrial wind turbine project proposed for the vicinity of the RHW appears to be dead: contracts between the developer and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, the New York Power Authority and the land owners have been cancelled. For the last four years, the RHW has opposed the project vigorously because it was to be constructed in a major flyway, on a ridge top and in close proximity to nesting Bald Eagles and other protected species in flagrant disregard of US Fish and Wildlife guidelines. But it appears that the immediate cause for the demise of the project was the developer's inability to secure adequate investment to continue: the developer apparently has abandoned the enterprise, owing the two participating towns \$100,000. Possibly the opposition from government and private environmental organizations, including the Buffalo Ornithological Society, made investors leery of the project. It was great to be able to concentrate on the birds.

For the first time in many years, Lake Erie was free of ice at the beginning of the season, which began March 11<sup>th</sup> this year. By contrast, Lake Erie in the vicinity of the hawk watch held considerable ice last year well into April. Unfortunately, Lake Erie's lack of ice this year didn't mean warm southerly breezes for the watch, which was plagued by cold, northerly winds all of March. Frequently predicted southerly winds never materialized until the last day of March, bringing with them over 2,000 Turkey Vultures and more than 300 raptors, including 20 Northern Harriers, 119 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 112 Red-tailed Hawks and 36 American Kestrels. Cold weather and northerly winds then dominated well into April. Sunny, cool, dry weather was the norm during the second half of April through May, when the watch closed on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Once again the RHW documented a record number of Turkey Vultures for the year (12,091), 1,493 more birds than the previous record set last year. This 14% increase in sightings at the RHW suggests the species is still expanding its population.

Osprey sightings decreased this year after a slight improvement last year. The 2006 total count for Ospreys (112) amounts to a 41% decrease from 2003 totals (191).

The increase in Bald Eagle sightings this year was exciting. The RHW counted a record number of 114 migrating Bald Eagles, an 87% increase over sightings of migrating

Bald Eagles in 2005 (61). This year's sightings of migrating Bald Eagles surpassed the previous record set in 2003 (86) by 28 birds. The RHW also recorded this Spring a record number of migrating Bald Eagles for one day, 14 eagles on April 30<sup>th</sup>, which surpassed the previous one-day record of nine on March 19, 2003. The day after setting the new record this year, another 12 migrating eagles were seen, making a two-consecutive-day count of 26 Bald Eagles.

The RHW takes great care to separate the count of migrating eagles from non-migrating eagles. This year the RHW made 81 sightings of Bald Eagles considered non-migrants on 37 different days. Taking sightings of both migrant and non-migrant Bald Eagles together, the RHW made 195 Bald Eagle sightings over the slightly more than two months of the hawk watch. At least 40% of the migrant eagles this season traveled through areas where they would have been at risk of collision with the proposed turbines. An even greater percentage of the non-migrant Bald Eagles were observed this year traveling through the area where the turbines were to be built.

Northern Harrier numbers continue to drop, with 179 being observed this year, a 20% decrease from last year's count (223).

The Sharp-shinned Hawk count (1,261), although slightly lower than last year's (1,285), still represented an improvement over the low recorded in 2004 (1,057). The 2006 Sharp-shinned numbers are, however, 27% lower than the count in 2003 (1,735). This year the RHW counted nine Cooper's Hawks before listing the first Sharp-shinned on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Cooper's Hawk numbers (109) were consistent with the last two years (2005: 122 birds; 2005: 105). Red-shouldered Hawk numbers (160) also were consistent with recent years (2005: 168 birds; 2004: 162). Again this year RHW observers watched both resident Cooper's Hawks and resident Northern Goshawks display.

Perhaps the biggest disappointment this year was the low number of Broad-winged Hawks observed (3,923). Compared to last year's 8,077 hawks, which was not particularly good for Broad-winged numbers, this year's count represents a 51% decrease. The Broad-winged Hawk flight started with a bang on April 11<sup>th</sup> with 76 birds counted. With so many Broad-winged Hawks on their first day, the RHW anticipated a year with large overall numbers of Broad-wings, but that never materialized. Only eight days saw more than 100 Broad-wings; only one day, more than 1,000. The big day for Broad-wings was April 23<sup>rd</sup> with 1,859 birds, 1,000 of them in one hour.

The 2006 count for Red-tailed Hawks (1,066) was down 30% from last year's count (1,521). Because there are a good number of resident Red-tails, the RHW is very careful not to count locals as migrants. Any behavior that seems to indicate that a Red-tail is a resident excludes that bird from our count of migrants.

The Rough-legged count (8) was down considerably from last year's (37) and from that of the year before (41), even though large numbers of wintering Rough-legged Hawks had been observed in January and February just

south of the RHW, where dairy farms with extensive hay fields dominate the landscape. The predominance of grape vineyards in the vicinity of the RHW is not conducive to the hunting Rough-legged Hawks pursue, so large numbers of Rough-legged Hawks aren't normally expected at the RHW. The extremely mild weather in the region this winter and early spring also might have persuaded the Rough-legs to migrate early before the opening of the watch.

Very modest numbers of Golden Eagles, Merlins and Peregrine Falcons are consistent with the counts of recent years.

American Kestrel observations this year (266) rebounded nicely from last year's low of 192 birds but are still lower by 26% than their numbers for 2003 (359).

The following table summarizes observations for all raptor species:

TABLE 1. Ripley Hawk Watch Raptor Count 2006

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Total</u>
Turkey Vulture	6,774	4,951	366	12,091
Osprey	5	68	39	112
Bald Eagle	24	55	35	114
Northern Harrier	47	116	16	179
Sharp-shinned Hawk	175	888	198	1,261
Cooper's Hawk	31	65	13	109
Northern Goshawk	4	3	3	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	129	31	0	160
Broad-winged Hawk	0	3,523	400	3,923
Red-tailed Hawk	575	419	72	1,066
Rough-legged Hawk	7	1	0	8
Golden Eagle	0	2	0	2
American Kestrel	68	184	14	266
Merlin	0	3	0	3
Peregrine Falcon	1	8	1	10
Unknown	8	36	10	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,848</b>	<b>10,353</b>	<b>1,167</b>	<b>19,368</b>

The RHW observes a number of non-raptor species also; alas, this year no Whooping Cranes. Noteworthy species this year included Great Egret, Sandhill Crane, Trumpeter Swan, Common Raven and Orchard Oriole among others. Sandhill Crane numbers were down precipitously to seven birds seen on four separate days. This year also saw low numbers of Tundra Swans compared to last year's hundreds, possibly because this year both Chautauqua Lake and Lake Erie were free of ice.

Detailed daily reports from the RHW, as well as many other Spring hawk watches, are available on the internet at [www.hawkcount.org](http://www.hawkcount.org). Questions about the RHW should be directed to Len DeFrancisco, coordinator (716/665-4999), Gil Randell (716/753-2333) or at [janngil@cecomet.net](mailto:janngil@cecomet.net).

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JUL 26 2006

# Hamburg Hawk Watch Spring 2006 Report

by Jim Landau

Hamburg Hawk Watch is a "spring-only" site located near the shore of Lake Erie in Hamburg, NY. The main watch site is just inside the Camp Road (Route 62) entrance to Lakeside Memorial Park between Routes 5 and 20. The count is conducted by a small number of volunteers.

According to the National Weather Service, Spring 2006 was an extraordinary one across Western New York, following a mild winter and the longest, warmest summer in history in 2005. It was the warmest spring in eight years and 6th warmest in the last 50 years. It was also the driest in 11 years and 5th driest in the last 50. Lake Erie finally developed a decent amount of ice during the last week of February, which lingered through the first two weeks of March. However the lake was completely clear of ice by the 16th at Buffalo Harbor. This is about a month earlier than average and the 6th earliest in the 80 years of records.

March brought few of its usual extremes as our region eased out of the mild winter of 2005-06 with little fanfare. The month began in the midst of the coldest period of the winter and featured a significant snowfall on the 2nd. A "clipper" type storm grazed the region with a sharp gradient from north to south. Less than 3 inches fell on the north side of the city, while up to 10 inches fell across the south towns, including the hawk watch. Temperatures remained chilly for the next few days before a strong warm-up set in during the second week. This week provided our first Northern Harriers (on 3/10), Bald Eagle (on 3/11), and Rough-legged Hawks (on 3/16). We then evolved a ten day cold period with spotty snow showers but little weather of interest until another pattern change brought our first real taste of spring during the final few days of the month. Flights picked up markedly beginning on 3/23, ending the month with 1676 individuals on 3/31, when temperatures soared to near record summer-like levels.

The benign weather pattern established in March continued through most of April as the Buffalo area was treated to fine spring weather. The average temperature of 48.0 was enough to give us the warmest April in 12 years. Early April was unsettled with rain on 4 of the first seven days, but was followed by a long dry period from 9-20th with temperatures warming to summer-like levels on the 20-21st. The first third of April also brought our first Peregrine Falcon (on 4/2), our only Black Vulture (on 4/6), our first Osprey (on 4/8), the first of the season's four Golden Eagles (one on 4/9, one on 4/13, and two on 4/28) and our first Broad-winged Hawk (on 4/11).

May was yet another quiet and benign month. Warm and dry weather prevailed during the first half of May. The

month began unusually pleasant with warm dry and sunny weather for the first ten days. The mercury rose to 82 on 10th when Buffalo was warmest place in the northeast. While the ever-elusive (but always hoped for) end-of-the-season immature Broad-winged Hawk flight failed to materialize, Bald Eagles continued to trickle through, giving us a new high count for this species (n=43).

The Spring 2006 at Hamburg could perhaps best be described as solid and satisfying. Overall 14,136 individual raptors were logged over the course of 75 days of coverage, making this our second highest season total. The only Black Vulture, spotted on April 6, was certainly a highlight for the season. Turkey Vultures and Bald Eagles both hit new high numbers for the watch. While most other species showed normal numbers, Northern Harriers made a poor showing, underscoring their status as a species of concern. American Kestrels were at their lowest since 1999.

There were also many days that produced fine opportunities for field study. A leucistic Red-tailed Hawk, a pair of imm. Bald Eagles dueling in mid-air on their way over the watch, a Merlin that paused in a tree for 20 minutes before resuming migration, and daily courtship flights by the resident pair of Cooper's Hawks are just a few of the moments that added to the pleasure of time spent at the hawk watch.

Sixty non-raptor species were logged, highlighted by spirit-lifting flyovers of Snow Geese, Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes. Other noteworthy species making an appearance included Wild Turkey, Lesser Yellowleg, Solitary Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Pileated Woodpecker, Horned Lark, all 6 local swallows, Eastern Bluebird, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Snow Bunting, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Any hawk watch that relies on volunteer coverage has a long list of people to thank and Hamburg is no exception. The coordinator gratefully acknowledges all of our "Hawk Watch Heroes," (Bruce Chilton, Mike Hamilton, Sandy Radigan, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy) for their considerable commitment of time and effort, week in and week out. Thanks are also due to the "Camp Road Irregulars," (Bob Andrle, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, Dean DiTommaso, Doug Happ, Sharon Sisti and Roberta Vallone) who filled in the gaps in coverage as our official counters. Additionally, many birders and friends stopped by throughout the spring to witness the migration and help with the count. Their sharp eyes, superior identification skills and good conversation were always a welcome addition. Weather summaries for this report were obtained from the National Weather Service in Buffalo. Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch is asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone at (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: kjlandau@localnet.com

TABLE 1. Hamburg Hawk Watch Raptor Count 2002 - 06

<u>Season</u>	<u>Obs Hrs</u>	<u>BV</u>	<u>TV</u>	<u>OS</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>NH</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>CH</u>	<u>NG</u>	<u>RS</u>	<u>BW</u>	<u>RT</u>	<u>RL</u>	<u>GE</u>	<u>AK</u>	<u>ML</u>	<u>PG</u>	<u>UR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>2006</u>	390.08	1	9160	113	43	50	609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131	<u>14136</u>
<u>2005</u>	396.25	0	7838	109	42	76	525	124	2	299	2503	1368	42	3	95	3	6	106	<u>13141</u>
<u>2004</u>	415.7	2	7723	91	39	104	395	85	1	270	1757	1167	95	2	74	4	3	126	<u>11938</u>
<u>2003</u>	394.8	0	8872	151	29	101	889	160	1	216	4998	1779	29	4	94	8	7	73	<u>17411</u>
<u>2002</u>	340.67	0	8505	103	23	65	611	129	2	218	1132	1223	21	1	75	7	2	120	<u>12237</u>

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	16	1	Wilson Harbor	Galas, Rising
Ring-necked Duck	15	1	Tonawanda WMA	Rising et al
"	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	26	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Harlequin Duck	<u>25</u>	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Watson
Long-tailed Duck	8	22	Shadigee	Watson
"	20	5	Somerset	Morgante
Bufflehead	12; 26	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	12	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	12; 26	31; 28	Batavia WWTP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	8; 15	206; 221	Motor I.	M&S Galas; Watson
"	15; 20	301; 460	Strawberry I.	Watson
American Bittern	3	2	Machias	DeSha
Great Egret	1 - 31	1 - 3	Tonawanda	Hess
"	4; 14	41; 43	Motor I.	Watson
"	6	2	Hanover	Neveu
"	7	1	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	27	2	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	30	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
* <u>Tricolored Heron</u>	12	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Chilton
* <u>Cattle Egret</u>	18	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
Black-cr. Night-Heron	3	110	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Roberson
"	4; 13	12; 36	Motor I.	Watson
"	26	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Turkey Vulture	29	23	Ripley	M&S Galas
Osprey	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Rising
"	8	1 (n)	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	29	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Bald Eagle	3	1 ad (n)	Salamanca	Baird
"	8; 12	1 ad & yg (n)	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	10; 13	2ad & 3yg (n)	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	13 - 31	2 ad & yg (n)	Machias	DeSha
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2 - 25	2 (n)	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Broad-winged Hawk	4	65	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	12	1	Elba	Dart, Beattie
Merlin	2 - <u>30</u>	2 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morgante
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	11	2	Iroquois NWR	Galas
* Black-bellied Plover	29F	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
* Semipalmated Plover	6F	9	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Rising, Seamans
"	8	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Greater Yellowlegs	17	1	Conewango	Baird
Solitary Sandpiper	5; 6	10; 9	Hanover	Neveu
"	8	5	Yates	Watson
"	14	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Morgante
* Upland Sandpiper	30F	3	Tillman WMA	Galas, Rising
Whimbrel	25	1	Batavia WWTP	Mason, Beattie
Ruddy Turnstone	27	9	Rock Pt. PP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	2	Rock Pt. PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	15	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	26; 29	5; 60	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Yoerg, Henderson
Least Sandpiper	5	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	7	5	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	29	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	14	15	Oak Orchard WMA	Morgante
"	15; 16	25; 81	Yates	Beattie et al; Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	28	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
Dunlin	7	33	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7; 28	13; 20	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	25	Iroquois NWR	G&M Coniglio
"	29	20	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Short-b. Dowitcher	16F	2	Yates	Watson
* Wilson's Phalarope	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Galas, Seamans
* Red-neck. Phalarope	<u>26</u>	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
Iceland Gull	<u>17L</u>	1	Olcott	D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	<u>14L</u>	1 imm	Olcott	D'Anna
Caspian Tern	13	39	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	5; 6; 13	52; 91; 29	Hanover	Neveu
Common Tern	13	50	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Forster's Tern	<u>26</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Black Tern	6	5	Iroquois NWR	Rising, Galas et al
"	6	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	12	51	Iroquois NWR	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	22	2	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
* Black-billed Cuckoo	13F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	18	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	11F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	13	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	G&M Coniglio
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	2	1	Lancaster	Morgante, Fuhrmann
* Common Nighthawk	25F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	25F; 31	1; 1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	1	1	Silver Creek (f)	Neveu
Red-headed Wdpkr.	7; 13	2; 6	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon; D'Anna et al
"	7	1	Pt. Gratiot	Neveu
"	13	1	Hanover	Neveu
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	12F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Landon, Yonker
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	25	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Acadian Flycatcher	12F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	19	1	Pomfret	Mosher

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Alder Flycatcher	23	2	Iroquois NWR	Landon, Yonker
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
* Willow Flycatcher	15F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie, Dart, Lazarczyk
"	20	2	Iroquois NWR	Meier, Rising
* Least Flycatcher	4F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	4F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	4F	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	4	1	Wilson	Potter
"	4	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Eastern Kingbird	3	1	Red House	Baird
"	4	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
* White-eyed Vireo	7	1	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	12F	3	Oak Orchard WMA area	Dart, Beattie
"	14	5	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
* Philadelphia Vireo	6F	1	Newstead	Galas et al
"	6F	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	9	1	Times Beach NP	Galas, Rising
"	12	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna
* Red-eyed Vireo	3F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	4	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Blue-headed Vireo	2	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	3	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Common Raven	13	2	Andover	Brooks
Bank Swallow	5	18	Dayton	Neveu
Cliff Swallow	8	9	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Galas et al
"	10	20 & 31 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	12	40	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	30	40 & 15 n	Tonawanda Island	Watson
Carolina Wren	10 - 25	8 recs	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Winter Wren	6; 28	1; 3	Ward	Brooks
"	8	1	Amherst SP	Galas, Rising
"	9	1	Tifft NP	Galas, Rising
Marsh Wren	3	4	Machias	DeSha
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	23	4	Goat I.	Roberson
"	25L	1	Wilson	Potter
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	1	1	Portville	DeSha
"	4; 9	2; 3	Tifft NP	Rising, Galas
"	20	2 (n)	Iroquois NWR	Meier, Rising, Watson
"	28	3 (n)	Tifft NP	Morgante
* Veery	3F	1	Porter	Chilton
"	7	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	10F	2	Buffalo Small Boat Harbot	Landon
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	17; 24	1; 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	23	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	26	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	27	1	Pt. Gratiot	Mosher et al
Swainson's Thrush	11	1	Wilson	Potter
"	11; 14	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson, DiTommaso
Wood Thrush	1	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	2	4	Lancaster	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Mockingbird	17	1	Williamsville	Watson
American Pipit	6	4	Bethany	Beattie
"	20L	15	Somerset	Morgante et al
Blue-winged Warbler	1	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	3	1	Salamanca	Baird
* Golden-wing. Warbler	7F	1	Amherst SP	G&M Coniglio
"	10	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Roberson
"	10; 15	1; 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	13	1	Goat I.	Potter, D'Anna
* Brewster's Warbler	14F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
* Tennessee Warbler	7F	1	Amherst SP	Rising, G&M Coniglio et al
"	10	1	Wilson	Potter
"	10	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	10	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Orange-cr. Warbler	2F; 3	1; 1	Wilson	Potter
"	11	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	17	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	23L	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Nashville Warbler	1	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	2	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Northern Parula	1	1	Wilson	Potter
"	2	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	2	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Chestnut-s. Warbler	4	1	Tifft NP	Rising, Galas
"	4	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Magnolia Warbler	4F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	6	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Cape May Warbler	5	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	6	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	2	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	2; 3	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Watson
"	5	2	Franklinville	DeSha
Yellow-r. Warbler	2; 7	75; 30	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon, Yonker
Pine Warbler	1	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	1; 5	3; 2	Sheridan	Neveu
"	6L	1	Evans	Morgante
* Prairie Warbler	13F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	14	1	Machias	DeSha
"	29	4	Yorkshire	Watson, Pawlicki
"	30	1	<u>Chestnut Ridge CP</u>	DiTommaso
Palm Warbler	21	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	25L	1	Wilson	Potter
* Bay-breasted Warbler	8F; 10	1; 1	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	9	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Blackpoll Warbler	7F	2	Amherst SP	Galas, Rising
"	28	1	Ward	Brooks
"	28	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	28	3	Dunnville & Rock Pt. (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Cerulean Warbler	4F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	4F; 5	1; 1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	6	1	Newstead	Rising, Galas, Seamans
"	15	1	Elba	Lazarczyk et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	2	Yates	Morgante, Potter et al
"	20	2	Bethany	Beattie
* American Redstart	2F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	3	1	Salamanca	Baird
Ovenbird	2	1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Rising, Galas
Northern Waterthrush	3	3	Salamanca	Baird
"	3	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	15; 19	1; 1	Amherst SP	Rising et al; Yoerg
La. Waterthrush	7	3	Chestnut Ridge CP	Morgante, Watson et al
"	28	1	Ripley	M&S Galas
* Connecticut Warbler	<u>25</u>	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	1	Tifft NP	DiTommaso
* Mourning Warbler	14F	2	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	14F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
* Common Yellowthroat	4F	1	Tifft NP	Rising, Galas
"	4F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	6	1	Niagara Falls SP	Roberson
Hooded Warbler	3	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	7	1	Chestnut Ridge CP	Watson et al (BOS)
* Wilson's Warbler	<u>4F</u>	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson, DiTommaso
"	28	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	28	7	Rock Pt. PP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Canada Warbler	11F	1	Amherst SP	Galas
"	12	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	14; 20	1; 1	Wilson	Morgante; D'Anna, Potter
"	25	1	Lancaster	Morgante
* Yellow-br. Chat	14F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	30	1	Tillman WMA	Rising, Galas
* Scarlet Tanager	6F	1	Newstead	Galas, Rising, Seamans
"	7	2	Chestnut Ridge CP	Morgante, Watson et al
Eastern Towhee	3	3	Goat I.	Roberson
* Clay-col. Sparrow	29	1	Yorkshire	Watson
Vesper Sparrow	20	1	Newfane	Morgante
* Grasshopper Sparrow	7F	1	Collins	Baird
"	15	1	Clarence	Hudson
"	30	2	Tillman WMA	Galas, Rising
"	31	1	Andover	Brooks
* Lincoln's Sparrow	2F	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	10; 11	1; 1	Tifft NP	Landon, Yonker; Watson
"	13	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	18	2	Wilson	Potter
"	20	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	24L	1	Ft. Niagara SP	D'Anna
White-cr. Sparrow	10F	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Landon, Watson
"	10F	6	Tifft NP	Landon, Yonker
Dark-eyed Junco	26L	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Rose-br. Grosbeak	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	1	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	2	2	Lancaster	Morgante
* Indigo Bunting	4F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	8	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Bobolink	2F	1	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
* Orchard Oriole	6F	1	Amherst SP	G&M Coniglio
"	10	1	Ripley	Baird
"	20	1	Somerset	Potter et al
Baltimore Oriole	2F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	2F	1	Lancaster	Morgante
"	2F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	2F	2	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Purple Finch	6	7	Oak Orchard WMA	Galas, Rising, Seamans
"	29	3	Orchard Park	Morgante
Pine Siskin	1; 2	6; 2	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	4	1	Wilson (f)	Potter

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **202**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month and May Count + 2 April species:** **051**

**Total for the year 2006:** **253**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## **Great Egret Banding at Motor Island -2006**

*by Bill Watson*

On June 12, 2006, twenty-two nestling Great Egrets were banded on Motor Island in the Niagara River by Chip Weseloh, Dave Moore and Richard Joos (Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region ), Connie Adams, Senior Wildlife Biologist, John Curtis, Senior Wildlife Technician, both of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and myself. Three breeding color-banded adults (banded as chicks on Motor Island in 2003) were also found on Motor Island during the banding this year

Once again I will be asking for birders to look for Great Egrets with RED BANDS WITH WHITE LETTER-NUMBERS ABOVE THE "KNEE" OF THE LEFT LEG AND THE TRADITIONAL ALUMINUM BAND ABOVE THE "ANKLE" OF THE RIGHT LEG. (At least one was banded with the red color band above the ankle.) The band code on the red band can usually be read with a spotting scope as the letter numbers are nearly an inch high.

Past records indicate some banded young Great Egrets will be relocated in New York (between the Niagara River and Montezuma NWR), in Ontario (near the north shore of Lake Erie), or in Ohio (at Conneaut Harbor), however, these birds could show up elsewhere as well. The birds will be fledging near the end of June and early July and soon thereafter dispersing from the area. Many of the adults also begin post breeding dispersal near the end of June.

If you see any of these marked birds, please record the date and location and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) so we can better document the dispersal pattern of these fledglings. Report all sighting of Great Egret with red color bands to at least one of the following locations.

D. V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T4 Phone: 416-739-5846 or email: [chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca](mailto:chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca)

and/or Connie Adams, NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203, Phone (716) 851-7010, email: [cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

## **The Whip-poor-wills Entertain Us Again, June 9, 2006**

*by Bill Burch*

This is the 16th year our group has been attracted to a quiet gravel road at nightfall to await the chorus of the Whip-poor-wills. The outing began with dinner at the Lotus Garden in Port Colborne, Ontario, enjoyed by 17 BOS members and guests. Eight others joined us later. The threat of rain dissuaded our Canadian friends, so only Bob Chambers and his wife came.

We reached Wilson Road at 8:30 p.m. Lynne Landon's bird list (mostly heard) included Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Veery, Gray Catbird, Willow Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Robin. Some stopped at Minor Road and saw Savannah Sparrow and Eastern Meadowlark.

There was concern that the chilly and overcast weather, which had diminished the firefly flashes, might also subdue the "whips". We were relieved then when the first call came at 9:18 p.m. from the woods on the east side of the road, in the direction of the Wainfleet Bog. Other Whip-poor-wills joined in and by 9:31 p.m., loud calls came from the nearby woods all along the road. Listeners with sharp ears counted at least nine in the chorus. Calling ended at 9:50 p.m. The "whips" again had pleased us, as they have done in all 16 outings.

(Bob Chambers informed us that Port Colborne now has nesting peregrines.)

# 70<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Ornithological Society May Bird Count

**May 21, 2006**

## Weather Synopsis

A cold, overcast day with occasional rain made for difficult observing conditions more reminiscent of early spring or late winter.

### May 21, 2006 Greater Buffalo International Airport (weather data provided by National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY)

Sunrise: 5:47 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:38 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP (°F)	DEW PT (°F)	PRESSURE mBar	DIR/WIND
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	50	39	1005.9	SSW/9
3:00 am	Light Rain	55	43	1003.1	SSW/9
6:00 am	Moderate Rain	46	40	1003.0	NW/17G21
9:00 am	Partly Cloudy	48	35	1004.2	SW/16G23
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	46	32	1003.9	W/18G25
3:00 pm	Light Rain	46	36	1004.9	W/22G29
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	46	34	1009.2	W/14G24
9:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	46	34	1010.7	W/14
12:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	45	36	1013.0	NW/10

## Compilation

The following is a list of species seen on the count followed by the total number observed. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers appear in parentheses. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. F and L represent the first and last dates for the spring migration. \* represents the first record for the year.

<u>Species</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Section</u>	<b>Raptors-Coots</b>		
<b>Loons-Ducks</b>			Osprey	3	(5,6,28)
Common Loon	21		Bald Eagle	19	
Pied-billed Grebe	9		Northern Harrier	8	
Double-crested Cormorant	2155		Sharp-shinned Hawk	13	
American Bittern	2	(14,23)	Cooper's Hawk	16	
Great Blue Heron	420		Red-shouldered Hawk	10	
Great Egret	48		Broad-winged Hawk	4	(19,20,26)
<b>Tricolored Heron</b>	1	(9)	Red-tailed Hawk	117	
Green Heron	37		American Kestrel	40	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	101		<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>	2	(11)
Turkey Vulture	250		Ring-necked Pheasant	12	
Canada Goose	4754		Ruffed Grouse	8	
Mute Swan	10		Wild Turkey	83	
Wood Duck	184		Virginia Rail	1	(9)
Gadwall	2	(10)	Sora	1	(23)
American Wigeon	2	(13)	Common Moorhen	2	(2,13)
American Black Duck	3	(1,15)	American Coot	7	
Mallard	1082		<b>Plovers-Terns</b>		
Blue-winged Teal	5	(10,13,18)	Black-bellied Plover	1	(21)
Northern Shovler	1	(6)	Semipalmated Plover	40	
Green-winged Teal	2	(11,13)	Killdeer	303	
Canvasback	1	(3)	Greater Yellowlegs L	2	(1)
Greater Scaup	1	(9)	Lesser Yellowlegs	7	(4,13,18)
White-winged Scoter	4	(4)	Solitary Sandpiper	5	
Long-tailed Duck L	5	(3,4)	Spotted Sandpiper	100	
Hooded Merganser	32		*Wimbrel F	18	(7,8)
Common Merganser	26		*Ruddy Turnstone F	2	(6)
Red-breasted Merganser	129		Red Knot	1	(7)
Ruddy Duck	22	(13)	Sanderling	6	(20)
waterfowl species	2		*Semipalmated Sandpiper F	8	(1,7)

Least Sandpiper	203		Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	18	
*White-rumped Sandpiper F	2	(4)	Eastern Bluebird	209	
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	(2,7)	Veery	48	
Dunlin	89		Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	(6)
Short-billed Dowitcher	9	(1,10,13)	Swainson's Thrush	22	
Wilson's Snipe	5		Hermit Thrush	3	(3,25)
American Woodcock	11		Wood Thrush	151	
Wilson's Phalarope	3	(1)	American Robin	5705	
unspecified shorebirds	112		Gray Catbird	573	
Bonaparte's Gull	185		Northern Mockingbird	8	
Ring-billed Gull	35357		Brown Thrasher	27	
Herring Gull	3635		European Starling	5975	
Great Black-backed Gull	82		*Bohemian Waxwing	1	(7)
Caspian Tern	102		Cedar Waxwing	109	
Common Tern	247		<b>Warblers</b>		
Black Tern	54		Blue-winged Warbler	53	
<b>Doves-Swallows</b>			Golden-winged Warbler	1	(4)
Rock Pigeon	736		Tennessee Warbler	14	
Mourning Dove	1224		Orange-crowned Warbler	2	(3,4)
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	(13,20,24)	Nashville Warbler	27	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4		Northern Parula	1	(11)
Eastern Screech-Owl	2	(3,22)	Yellow Warbler	1330	
Great Horned Owl	4	(19,28)	Chestnut-sided Warbler	105	
Barred Owl	6	(19,28)	Magnolia Warbler	103	
Chimney Swift	67		Cape May Warbler	8	(3,4,9)
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	229		Black-throated Blue Warbler	49	
Belted Kingfisher	58		Yellow-rumped Warbler	102	
Red-headed Woodpecker	8		Black-throated Green Warbler	50	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	106		Blackburnian Warbler	26	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	35		Pine Warbler	3	(4,18)
Downy Woodpecker	246		Prairie Warbler	4	(3,18,28)
Hairy Woodpecker	112		Palm Warbler	7	
Northern Flicker	192		Bay-breasted Warbler	14	
Pileated Woodpecker	15		Blackpoll Warbler	4	(3,8)
Eastern Wood Pewee	19		Cerulean Warbler	9	
*Yellow-bellied Flycatcher F	1	(20)	Black-and-white Warbler	27	
*Alder Flycatcher F	2	(16,18)	American Redstart	216	
Willow Flycatcher	12		Ovenbird	85	
Least Flycatcher	64		Northern Waterthrush	14	
unidentified empidonax	4		Louisiana Waterthrush	2	(10,18)
Eastern Phoebe	164		Mourning Warbler	8	
Great Crested Flycatcher	92		Common Yellowthroat	377	
Eastern Kingbird	103		Hooded Warbler	80	
Yellow-throated Vireo	10		Wilson's Warbler	16	
Blue-headed Vireo	18		Canada Warbler	13	
Warbling Vireo	190		Yellow-breasted Chat	1	(5)
Philadelphia Vireo	5		<b>Tanagers-Sparrows</b>		
Red-eyed Vireo	244		Scarlet Tanager	48	
Blue Jay	711		Eastern Towhee	65	
American Crow	1612		Chipping Sparrow	798	
<b>Common Raven</b>	17	(18,19,28)	Field Sparrow	71	
Horned Lark	10		Vesper Sparrow	3	(4,15,20)
Purple Martin	260		Savannah Sparrow	85	
Tree Swallow	3132		Grasshopper Sparrow	1	(10)
No. Rough-winged Swallow	2351		Fox Sparrow	2	(28)
Bank Swallow	1752		Song Sparrow	912	
Cliff Swallow	345		Lincoln's Sparrow	5	(4,11,20)
Barn Swallow	8183		Swamp Sparrow	66	
<b>Chickadees-Waxwings</b>			White-throated Sparrow	37	
Black-capped Chickadee	641		White-crowned Sparrow L	181	
Tufted Titmouse	107		Dark-eyed Junco	184	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	38		Northern Cardinal	577	
White-breasted Nuthatch	144		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	370	
Brown Creeper	9		Indigo Bunting	118	
Carolina Wren	16		Bobolink	406	
House Wren	283		Red-winged Blackbird	4239	
Winter Wren	1	(20)	Eastern Meadowlark	75	
Marsh Wren	11		Rusty Blackbird	3	(2,28)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	13		Common Grackle	3684	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12		Brown-headed Cowbird	840	

<b>Orchard Oriole</b>	2	(20)
Baltimore Oriole	844	
Purple Finch	133	
House Finch	383	
Pine Siskin	2	(28)
American Goldfinch	1573	
House Sparrow	1477	
Unidentified birds	2	

**Total Species Observed:** 198

**Total Individual Birds Observed:** 106,659

#### Notable Count Highs:

The number of species (198) is about average over the last 20 years. The number of individuals (106,659) is the third largest total on the May count. Five individual species were recorded at their highest total ever: Canada Goose (4754), Bald Eagle (19), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (2351), Cliff Swallow (345) and Barn Swallow (8183). A number of species also were recorded at their second highest total since the count began.

#### Notable Species:

Tricolored Heron, third record on May count. Bohemian Waxwing the first record on the May count.

#### Notable Count Lows:

Unfortunately, several species were recorded in very low numbers: Blue-winged Teal (5), Ring-necked pheasant (12), Sora (1), Chimney Swift (75) and Eastern Meadowlark (75) were at all time May count lows. After appearing every year from 1945-2004, Common Nighthawk was not observed for the second straight year.

#### Observers (Section compliers in boldface.)

**Section 1:** Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker

**Section 2:** Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Marcie Jacklin, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz

**Section 3:** Edward Crohn, Betsy Potter-D'Anna, Willie D'Anna, Jerrold J. Farrell, Barbara Henderson, Patricia Kornacker, **Donald Roberson**, Vicki Rothman, Timothy Simon, Mary Ann Stegmeier, Coleen Walsh, John Welte, Martha Welte, Peter Yoerg, Bruce Zahno, Kim Zahno

**Section 4:** Julie Eberhart, Jim Pawlicki, **Bill Watson**

**Section 5:** Don Brasure, Jim Rozanski, **Liz Wells**

**Section 6:** Jerry Chapple, Nina Chapple, Karin Schneider, John Stevens

**Section 7:** Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield, Marg Partridge

**Section 8:** Doug Happ, **Mike Zebehazy**

**Section 9:** Pat Bogan, Mandy Dragoo, Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Eric Lobato, Debra Milleville, **Gerry Rising**, Don Roberson, Joe Stein, Maria Zawistowski

**Section 10:** Donna DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**

**Section 11:** Marie Johnson, Alice McKale, Susan O' Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Marilyn Pecoraro-O'Connell, Richard Salembier

**Section 12:** Greg Coniglio, Joe DiDomenico, Paul Fuhrmann, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, **Gail Seamans**

**Section 13:** Doug Beattie, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Charles Graney, David Graney, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, **Jane Mason**, Marc Mason, **Max Mason**, Joe Salvador, Ruth Ann Salvador, Paula Stone, Donald Thurau, Virginia Tiede

**Section 14:** Robert Andrle, Ken Brandes, Joanne Dobler, Tim Goff, Fred Harrington, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Nancy Vigyikan, Carolyn Wellington, **Barb Walker**

**Section 15:** William Bogacki, Ed Ratajczak

**Section 16:** Patricia Andrle, Robert Andrle, Thomas Connare, **Francis Rew**

**Section 18:** Bruce Chilton, Mike Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau

**Section 19:** Ron Andrews, Betty Bledsoe, Faye Clancy, Cris Estabrook, James Fegley, Tara Griffin, Dora Lilly, Ethan Lynch, Sam

Norton, Virginia Norton, John Raybuck, Michael Raybuck, Elaine Smith, Carol Stonemetz, James Talbott, Ann Voss, Scott Warren, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson

**Section 20:** Alan Benton, Karen Brisley, Ken Brisley, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Dick Clarke, Sylvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Peggy Langer, Terry Mahoney, Richard Miga, Terry Mosher, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Mary Shearman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft, Jordan Whitney

**Section 21:** Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Ranjit Laha, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 22:** Julie Heilmar, Walter Heilmar, Ranjit Laha, Linda O'Brien, William O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 23:** Julie Heilman, Walter Heilmar, Ranjit Laha, Jean Pigman, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 24:** Tim Baird

**Section 25:** Tim Baird, Stephan W. Eaton, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy

**Section 26:** Doris Burton, Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Noah McNeil, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley, Denton Willett

**Section 27:** H. M. Bateman, **Doris Burton**, Jim Horn, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia, Wilma Sanford

**Section 28:** Russell Allen, Charlotte Anderson, Dan Babcock, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholtz, **Doris Burton**, Mary Lou Cartledge, Carla Coch, **Diane Converso**, Elsie Cushing, Karol Doty, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Keegan Fleming, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Norman Ives, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Kathleen MacDonald, Walter Mason, Marion McClure, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmeter, Thelma Palmeter, Sean Phelan, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Nancy Rouse, May Shields, Peter Shields, Jim Smith, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Mary Trouslot, Cindy Vance, Gerry Vance, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Suzanne Wood

**Total number of observers:** 238

#### Verification report submission

Rare and out of normal season birds, that is those requiring a verification report as per the BOS "Verification Date Guide", are not added to the count unless a verification report is submitted. This year and every other year several species were not recorded because the appropriate verification reports were not submitted. The count compliers wish to thank those people who took the time to complete verification reports. Those who sent verification reports directly to us include: Marg Partridge, Michael Galas, Thomas O'Donnell, and Karen Brisley.

**Count Compilers:** **Robert L. DeLeon** and **Donna V. DeLeon**

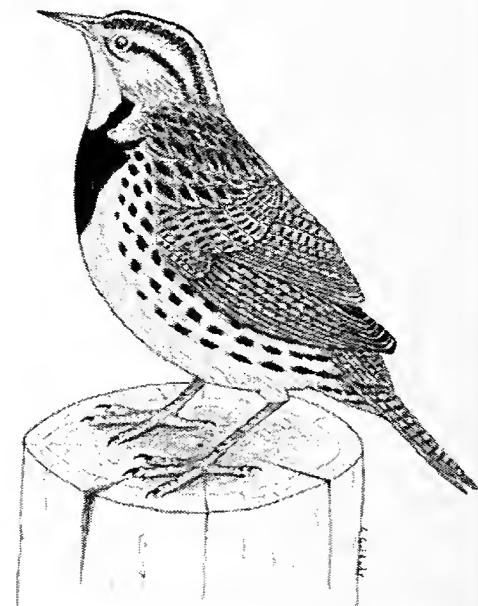
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## **July – September Calendar**

### **July 30, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.**

Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

**Aug. 20: BOS August Shorebird Count.** Start at 6:30 AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: llandon@daemen.edu

**Aug. 27: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 7 July, 2006

### THE MONTH: June

by Mike DeSha

According to the National Weather Service in Buffalo, June could be characterized as "a changeable but generally pleasant early summer month." It was the 13<sup>th</sup> of the past 14 months warmer than normal. There were two ninety-degree days during the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> that followed the very cool weekend of the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> with temperatures in the 60's. There was a concern early in the month that mild drought conditions might be developing, but rainfall during the final week brought monthly totals into the normal range. The 1.29 inches measured at the airport on the 27<sup>th</sup> was a record for the date though paling in comparison to 6-to-10 inch amounts across central and eastern New York State since we were on the western edge of tropical deluges affecting the more easterly portions. It was the first daily rainfall of over an inch at Buffalo in 2006.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> a thunderstorm moved from Grand Island to the airport and dropped over an inch of rain in 20 minutes in Tonawanda. During the afternoon of the 25<sup>th</sup> over an inch of rain fell on the city in less than 30 minutes causing localized road flooding. Thunderstorms, including one in which there developed a rare F1 tornado in Cheektowaga, moved through the area on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Sunshine totaled 54 percent of the possible, some ten points less than usual; 11 days were mostly sunny while 9 were mostly cloudy. Winds overall were fairly light, as usual in June. Lake Erie warmed to 71 degrees by the end of the month – some 4 degrees above normal. The month ended with a total of 3.38 inches of precipitation (0.44 inch below normal). The average temperature was 68.3

degrees (2.5 degrees above normal). (Meteoro-logical data provided by the National Weather Service Buffalo office.)

After six years of Atlasing work, we are resting this June; but I find that I am missing the

action and disturbed by the changes in habitats during even this brief span. Many of the blocks that I surveyed were close to home and I found many areas within these blocks that gave me a totally new perspective on nearby birding possibilities that I would never have explored without the impetus of this effort. However, because a new house has been built, a Northern Harrier is no longer coursing over a meadow that I found. An Ovenbird trying desperately to distract me from searching for her nest will not have to contend with me again, because the trees in the State Forest have been logged. We were told that the Atlas provides a snapshot; I wasn't ready to lose the real thing so quickly.

While not Atlasing, observers this month managed to find some interesting birds. Bill Watson found a Ring-necked Duck at the Cayuga Pool in Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. And while he states that he has seen "thou-



Adult male Dickcissel photographed by Wille D'Anna (upper left; June 11) and Mike Galas (lower right; June 12) along the Youngstown-Wilson Road in Niagara County.

63	<b>The Month</b> <i>Mike DeSha</i>
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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

President:	Thomas O'Donnell
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2005-2007	Mike Galas Jerry Lazarczyk Gail Seamans
2006-2008	Douglas Beattie Lynne Landon Elizabeth Wells

sands," very few are seen after May 25 so this bird is considered exceptional and required documentation.

For those who enjoy the gulls, there was a lot of excitement during June. A Little Gull was found by Jim Pawlicki on the evening of June 13<sup>th</sup> at the mouth of the Niagara River. The gull was seen again on the 14<sup>th</sup> by Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter and Vicki Rothman. As documented by Willie D'Anna, this gull was in first alternate plumage and smaller than the nearby Bonaparte's Gulls. It had a "smaller rounded head, smaller bill, and short tail." The darker "M" pattern on its wings was also used to distinguish it from the Bonaparte's. This was the first June record in Region 1 of New York State and only the second record of a Little Gull in June in the BOS study area.

Almost unbelievably, as Pawlicki was sorting through the gulls on the 13<sup>th</sup>, he found an even rarer gull, a Black-headed Gull. This individual was well-observed by a number of folks and many documented it by way of some marvelous photographs. Bill Watson described the bird: "Its shape was very similar to the many Bonaparte's Gulls next to it, but the bill seemed proportionately a little longer, straighter, thicker and redder. The Black-headed Gull was about 20-percent longer than the Bonaparte's Gulls (but looked almost twice the volume) and about 10 percent shorter in length than the Ring-billed Gulls. The bill was 60 percent of head diameter and reddish black except for the distal end, which was all black. The molting hood was not black or gray like the Bonaparte's Gulls hoods, but what was left of it was dark brown. The legs and webbed feet were red-pink." This is the first report of a Black-headed Gull in June.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> I found an "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler while looking for Clay-colored Sparrows in the conifer plantation on Hilfiger Road in the Town of Yorkshire in Cattaraugus County. This location has consistently produced species of more southerly distribution such as Prairie Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow, and now a west-

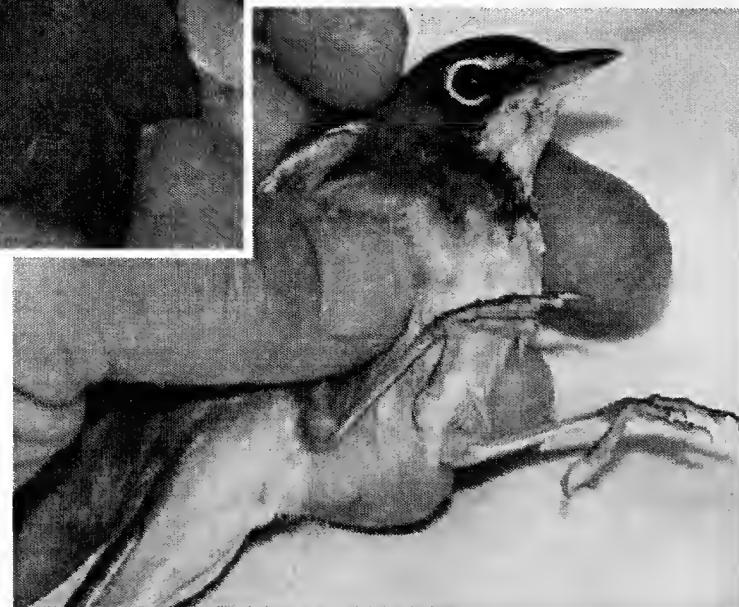
ern subspecies can be added to the mix. This subspecies hybridizes with its eastern counterpart, the "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler and therefore has been lumped together with it even though each was once considered a separate species. This is the first June record for this subspecies and only the third record in BOS archives; both of the other records were in April.

Watson saw and documented a Yellow-throated Warbler in Allegany State Park. This species has become very regular at this location in the past few years. From personal observation, I have noted a large increase in population of Prairie Warbler in Cattaraugus County during the course of the Atlas 2000 Project. The trend continued in June. One was documented in Chestnut Ridge Park by Dean DiTommaso; another was seen and documented by Mike Manganante in Sardinia. Several Pine Warblers remained in our region during June. Some of the observations cannot be included in the database because summer sightings of this species must be documented.

There are confusing fall warblers and now a "confused" summer warbler. On June 27, David Junkin netted a bird at his banding station in Wyoming County that looked like a cross between a Blue-headed Vireo and a warbler. Pictures were taken and posted and shown below. The bird was released and David asked "What is it?" Speculation raged with no developing consensus. Suggestions ranged between Canada Warbler X Mourning Warbler or Mourning Warbler X Common Yellowthroat to an interfamilial cross between a Blue-headed Vireo and a warbler. The banding office conservatively called it a "hybrid passerine." There was a suggestion that DNA analysis could be done on a feather. Serendipitously, Junkin recaptured the bird, removed two tail feathers, which the bird will replace in a few days, and shipped them off to Dr. Irby Lorette at Cornell where a DNA analysis will be made. It is interesting to note that DNA analysis of feathers is starting to become routine, but even more interesting for us in the



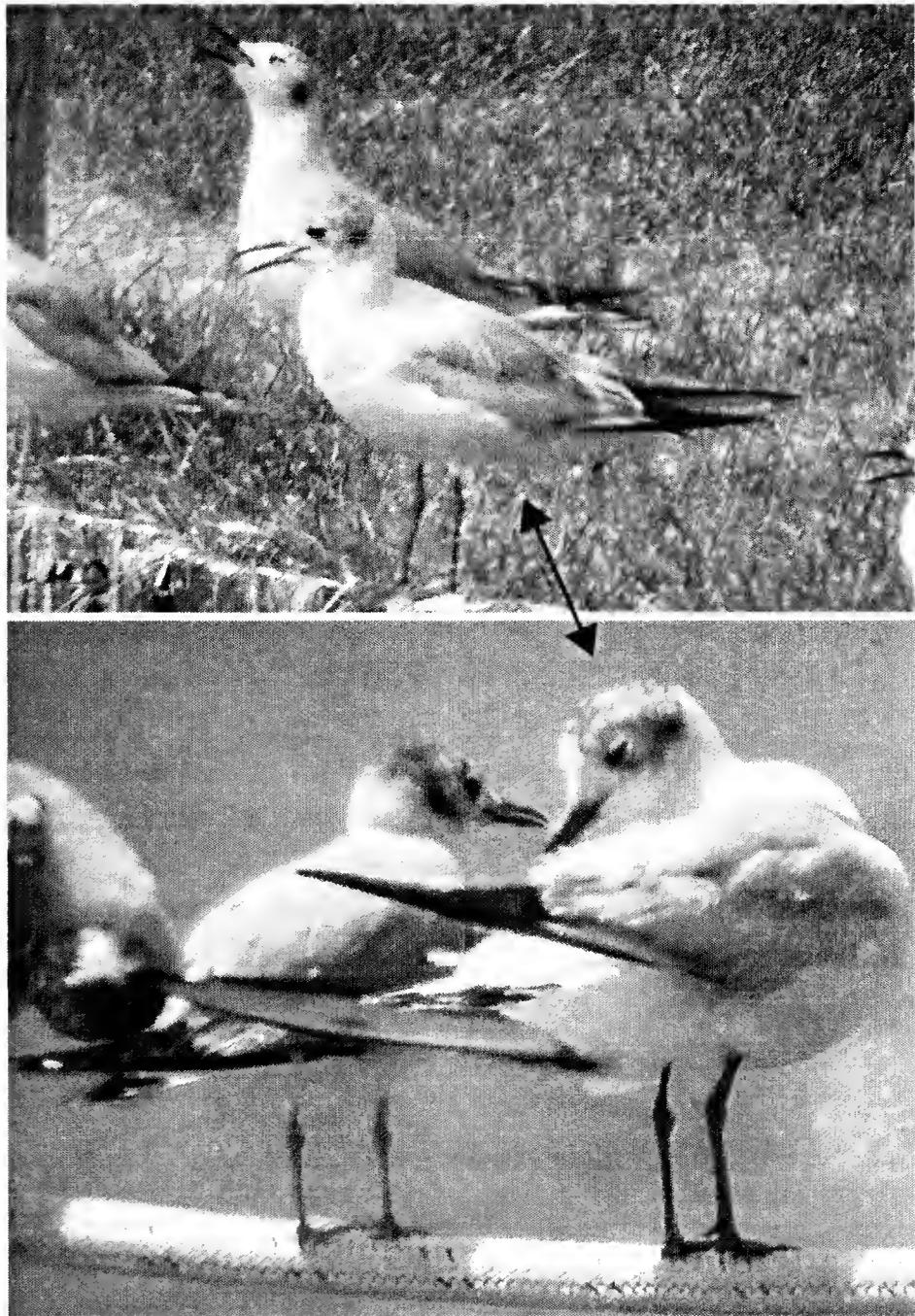
*Two different angles of a unusual hybrid passerine mist-netted by David Junkin at his MAPS station in bliss, NY (Wyoming County) on June 27 and photographed by Kurt Fox. Additional color photographs can be found at: [www.home.eznet.net/~kfox/wny/junkin/junkin.htm](http://www.home.eznet.net/~kfox/wny/junkin/junkin.htm)*



present case is that we may soon have a definitive identification of the parentage.

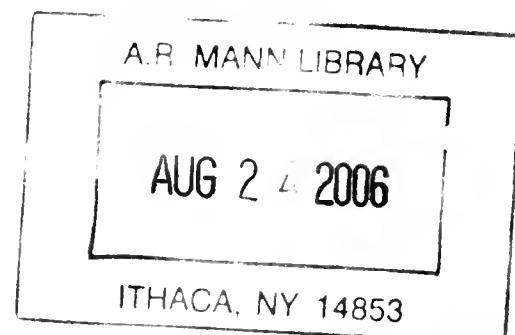
Early in the morning of June 11 as Willie D'Anna, Betsy Potter and Dean DiTommaso were at Stop #10 of the Youngstown Breeding Bird Survey Route, the group heard and finally spotted two Dickcissels. The birds were joined by some additional individuals as a large number of observers including Bill Broderick, Jim Pawlicki, Bill Watson, Mike and Sylvia Galas and Gerry Rising were able to view them throughout the remainder of June. Here again some stunning photographs document the observations of these birds. Bill Watson's description in his verification details what is seen in the photographs. "The Dickcissel was a little longer than the House sparrows in the same field, but a slimmer build.... The bill was twice as long as it was high. It was a very large bill suggesting a grosbeak rather than a bunting or sparrow.... The chin was white; the throat was black tapering to a point on the upper breast.... The rest of the breast was a drabber yellow (when compared to the bright malar and supercilium yellow).... The lesser and medial dorsal wing coverts were a conspicuous orange red rusty color."

The Dickcissel is notorious for irregular movements outside of the core range, the prairie grassland regions in the



Black-headed Gull (arrows) with Bonaparte's Gull, photographed by Jim Pawlicki (top; June 14) and Willie D'Anna (bottom; June 17) at Fort Niagara State Park.

middle of the U.S., to breed in surrounding areas where extensive grassland habitat exists. These erratic, semi-nomadic movements result in dramatic year-to-year changes in distribution and abundance, especially in peripheral and sporadically occupied areas. New York is on the eastern fringe of these areas and drought in the core breeding areas apparently forces many Dickcissels to move outward in search of more favorable conditions for nesting. (Temple, S.A. 2002, Dickcissel *Spiza americana*, in The Birds of North America, No. 703 (A. Poole and F. Gill eds.) The Birds of North America, Inc. Philadelphia, PA.) Other Dickcissels have been reported in Ontario and farther to the east of our region. I suspect that we are again seeing the influx as a result of the intense drought in the Midwest. Bill Watson in 2000 wrote on the connection between drought in the Midwest and Dickcissels in New York. *Prothonotary* Vol. 66, No. 7, July, 2000. He suggested in his write-up for June of that year that more data on such a correlation is needed and that this could be an excellent project for an individual or the BOS research committee.



Nestling Turkey Vultures (lower) photographed by Kayo Roy in an old unused barn (upper) on Yokom Road, just south of Niagara Falls, ONT on June 26, 2006.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Ring-necked Duck	<u>2L</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	2; 24	2; 6	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Bufflehead	<u>2</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Merganser	<u>2</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	2; 24	28; 12	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Great Egret	1 - 30	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	11	13	Niagara River	Morgante
"	12	50	Motor I.	Watson et al
"	15	15	Times Beach NP	Hess
Black-cr. Night-Heron	12	35	Motor I.	Watson et al
"	14	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna et al
Osprey	11	1	Tillman WMA	Sharon
"	11	1	Salamanca	Pawlicki et al
"	2	1 (n)	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	24	2 ad, 1 yg	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Bald Eagle	10	1 ad, 2 yg (n)	Navy I.	Watson
"	11; 18	2 ad, 3 yg (n)	Salamanca	Watson, Baird; Yoerg
"	12	2 ad, 2 yg (n)	Machias	DeSha
Red-shouldered Hawk	18	1 (n)	Orchard Park	Morgante
Sora	12	1	Ellicottville	DeSha
Common Moorhen	24	2 ad, 5 yg	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Black-bellied Plover	<u>10L</u>	2	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Watson
Upland Sandpiper	4	2	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Semipalm. Sandpiper	2	13	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	4L	5	Silver Creek	Neveu
Least Sandpiper	4L	7	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	4L	14	Hanover	Neveu
Little Gull	<u>14</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
* <u>Black-headed Gull</u>	14 - 17	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Lazarczyk, Watson, Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	3	5	Hanover	Neveu
"	11	2	Black Rock Canal	Morgante
"	27	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki
Black Tern	2; 7	21; 12	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Hess
Common Nighthawk	1 - 30	1 - 2	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4	5	Dunkirk	Lazarczyk
"	11; 12	1; 1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Lazarczyk et al
Acadian Flycatcher	11	1	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	11	3	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	5	Hanover	Neveu
"	18; 25	7; 5	Pomfret	Neveu
"	24	1	Holland	Salembier
"	25	1	Villenova	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	1	Stockton	Watson, Pawlicki
Yellow-thr. Vireo	2; 6	2; 1	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	20	2	Bethany	Beattie
Common Raven	3	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	28	1	Andover	Brooks
Purple Martin	12	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Bank Swallow	3	2	Hanover	Neveu
"	5	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
Cliff Swallow	7	2	Andover	Brooks
"	10	40, 36 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	10	36, 31 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	11	1	Allegany Ind Res	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	4	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
"	18	2 (n)	Black Rock Canal	Morgante
Carolina Wren	3 - 15	3 recs	Buffalo area	Watson, Hess
Winter Wren	18	3	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	4	Holland	Salembier
"	25	6	E. Holland Bog	Morgante
"	4 - 30	8 other recs; 2 max	S and E of Buffalo	Several observers
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	3	1	Hanover	Neveu
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3L	1	Times Beach NP	Salembier
Swainson's Thrush	11	1	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Hermit Thrush	1; 11	1; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	17	2	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	30	1	W. Almond	Brooks
Northern Mockingbird	3	1	Times Beach NP	Watson
Nashville Warbler	3	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	6	1	Andover	Brooks
"	25	1	E. Holland Bog	Morgante
Northern Parula	11	2	Allegany Ind Res	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Yellow-r Warbler <i>D.c. auduboni</i>	14	1	Yorkshire	DeSha
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	17	1	Fort Niagara SP	Potter, D'Anna
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	11	2	Allegany SP	Watson
Pine Warbler	<u>2, 14</u>	1	Bond Lake CP	Chilton
"	<u>10</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Prairie Warbler	3 - 30	5 max	Alfred & vicinity	Brooks
"	6	1	<u>Chestnut Ridge Pk</u>	DiTommaso
"	12	2	Machias	DeSha
"	12	1	Ellicottville	DeSha
"	25	1	<u>Sardinia</u>	Morgante
Blackpoll Warbler	3	2	Tifft NP	Salembier, Watson
"	6L	1	Wilson	Potter
Cerulean Warbler	11	6 & n	Salamanca	Baird et al
"	18	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	19	2	Shelby	Beattie, Dart
Black-&-white Warb.	1 - 23	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	11	2 + n + 4 eggs	Salamanca	Baird et al
Prothonotary Warbler	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	24	2	Tonawanda WMA	Potter, D'Anna
Northern Waterthrush	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	12	4	Ellicottville	DeSha

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	19	2	Shelby	Beattie, Dart
"	25	3	E. Holland Bog	Morgante
La. Waterthrush	11	1	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
"	14	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	25	1	Villanova	Neveu
Mourning Warbler	13	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Canada Warbler	6	1	Pike	Lazarczyk et al
"	24	2	Holland	Salembier
"	25	1	E. Holland Bog	Morgante
Yellow-br. Chat	11	1	Somerset	D'Anna et al
Clay-col. Sparrow	1 - 27	4 max	Andover	Brooks
"	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	4	Tillman WMA	Salembier
"	7; 24; 28	1; 2; 1	Andover	Brooks
"	11	1	Porter	Watson, Pawlicki
"	18; 20	1; 1	Porter	M&S Galas et al
"	25	4	Tillman WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* Henslow's Sparrow	25	1	Lancaster	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	2	Grove	Brooks
Lincoln's Sparrow	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
White-thr. Sparrow	25	1	<u>East Holland Bog</u>	Morgante
* Dickcissel	11 - 26	3 max	Porter	DiTommaso, Watson, D'Anna, Galas et al
Orchard Oriole	11; 20	2; 1	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	16	1	Wilson	Lazarczyk, Partridge
"	26	1	Porter	Galas, Krisits

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 253

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month + 1 from May:** 006

**Total for the year 2006:** 259

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## Gordon Bellerby 1919 - 2006

by Mary Ellen Hebb

Reprinted from the June, 2006 OFO Newsletter

My friend of many years, Gordon Bellerby, often told me that he was a lucky fellow, extraordinarily so at times. By the time he retired in 1983, he had already led a life that was richly fulfilling, exciting, and at times even terrifying. At that point he could easily have settled for the slippers, the armchair, the pipe and the fireside. But he didn't. Instead, he started a whole new career, birding.

Gordon was born in Dorking, England on 1 June 1919, the anniversary of a famous British naval battle. Perhaps it was an omen: in 1941, after studying law at Cambridge, he joined the Royal Air Force, and was sent to Hollywood to be trained as a pilot. Accommodations on the way there included being billeted in the Swine and Sheep pens at the CNE. Back in England, he became a fighter pilot, flying Hurricanes. After flying 86 missions in Libya and the Western Desert, he downgraded himself to student pilot in order to learn the art of aerial photography. Thereafter, he flew

unarmed Spitfires deep into enemy territory, with instructions that he was to flee if spotted by an enemy fighter plane, but always to return the next day to finish the job! He flew 100 more missions, far more than the mandatory 30, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Having decided after the war to emigrate to New Zealand, he made a stopover in Montreal. There, an acquaintance of his father introduced him to "the prettiest girl in Canada," Diana Kindersley. His New Zealand plans were promptly abandoned. His good luck held when Diana's then boyfriend was transferred to Seattle. Not long after they were married, Gordon's new boss, a birder, began drawing his employee's attention to birds. Gordon was only casually interested. Then, one day, came that moment that so many birders will recognize: a Red Crossbill showed up in his garden and he was hooked. Birds became his passion. He immersed himself in a host of bird projects, both in Montreal and later in Toronto. Thus, years later, when he retired as an executive in the soon to be Petro Canada, he was ready for his new career as fulltime birder, birding project participant/coordinator, bird reporter, and for a little variety, wine connoisseur. (*continued on page 69*)

(continued from page 68)

He and Diana, an accomplished artist, moved to Niagara on the Lake, where he plunged into Ontario's first Breeding Bird Atlas, joined the local clubs, and helped monitor the peregrine hack at Brock University. Next, he managed somehow to persuade the Shaw Festival's artistic director, Christopher Newton, that peregrines and plays would do nicely together: peregrines in a hack box on top of the theatre, plays below! It didn't work out quite that smoothly, but Newton gallantly never complained. Gordon became a founding member of the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch. At the Hawkwatch annual banquets, he would supervise a very jolly wine tasting event. He shamed those of us in Niagara and some other jurisdictions into carrying out the arctic coma inducing January Duck Count. Heavenly hot soup and mulled cider afterward at the Bellerbys and a pair of gigantic Donald Duck slippers for the finder of the most species were the reward for our heroism. In their spare time, he and Diana led wine and art tours in France. But his most important contribution to birding, and what subscribers online to Ontbirds will remember best, were Gordon's regular and astonishingly detailed reports on the Niagara River flypast of Bonaparte's and Little Gulls as they headed into Lake Ontario every evening through the winter months.

Gordon was bright, humorous, generous and witty, giving in only occasionally to brief bursts of outrage at perceived injustices. When he knew he was dying, he let it be known that he didn't want anyone to say that he had "passed away" no euphemisms for him! Let it be said that he had died. Gordon Bellerby died on Tuesday 17 January 2006.

Gordon joined a young OFO in February 1983 and became one of our well known members. He always advised the leaders of the annual OFO gull trip to Niagara where to find the best gulls.

The late Gordon Bellerby (right) with the late gull expert Peter Grant at Queenston Sand Docks on 18 November 1987. Photo by Kayo Roy.



## Study Documents the Marathon Migrations of Sooty Shearwaters

UC-Santa Cruz Press Release: August 7, 2006

Every summer, millions of Sooty Shearwaters arrive off the coast of California, their huge flocks astonishing visitors who may have trouble grasping that the dark swirling clouds over the water consist of seabirds. Scientists have long known that sooty shearwaters breed in New Zealand and Chile and migrate to feeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere. But the details of this remarkable transequatorial migration are only now emerging from a study using electronic tracking tags to follow individual birds.

The flights of sooty shearwaters documented in this new study represent the longest animal migration routes ever recorded using electronic tracking technology: around 65,000 kilometers (39,000 miles). Taking advantage of prevailing winds along different parts of the migration route, the birds trace giant figure eights over the Pacific Basin. These findings are published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (<http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0603715103v1>).

The researchers found that the migratory cycle of sooty shearwaters encompasses the entire Pacific Basin, focusing on the richest feeding grounds in both hemispheres – from Antarctic waters in the south during the breeding season to bountiful coastal currents off California, Alaska, and Japan in the north. These small seabirds cross the equator twice a year in pursuit of an endless summer in which their feeding areas are always at or near the period of peak productivity.

Diving patterns recorded by the tags indicate the birds stop little if at all to feed as they pass through the equatorial regions on their journey between the Southern and Northern Hemispheres.

The new study shows that, contrary to previous assumptions, sooty shearwaters do not make a big pan-Pacific sweep to cover all of their feeding areas in the Northern Hemisphere. Instead, individual birds went to just one of three major hot spots and stayed there until it was time to return south to breed. Birds that travel to different regions do not represent distinct populations of shearwaters.

The timing and route of the northward migration was somewhat variable, with birds crossing the equator at various locations over a period of about a month. But the return trip was remarkably synchronous. All of the tagged birds funneled through a narrow corridor and crossed the equator within a ten-day period in October. Ongoing research using tags redeployed on the same birds will show whether or not individual birds have preferred feeding areas that they travel to each year.

More information about the shearwater study, including multimedia content (color images and a very interesting simulation) is available at <http://www.toppcensus.org/web/FeatureDetails.aspx?id=82&WG=9>.

The website <http://www.toppcensus.org> contains a variety of very interesting information on other studies that focus on tracking marine animals.

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Buffalo Museum of Science  
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**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## August – September Calendar

- Aug. 20: BOS August Shorebird Count.** Start at 6:30 AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: llandon@daemen.edu
- Aug. 27: Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.
- Sept. 9: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach for warblers and shorebirds.** Leader: Bill Bogacki (674-5781). Meet at 8:00 AM in the Tifft N. P. parking lot. This is a half-day trip.
- Sept. 13: BOS Meeting** 7:30 PM Buffalo Museum of Science. Members' Night. Bring along your favorite stories/slides to share.
- Sept. 27: BOS Meeting** 7:30 PM Buffalo Museum of Science. Emma E. DeLeon: Using Bioacoustic Techniques to Study Avian Migration.
- Sept. 30: Saturday. Eastern Lake Ontario Plains. Full Day Trip - Bring Lunch/Water.** Leader: Jim Pawlicki (636-3915). Meet at 7:30 a.m. just beyond the entrance toll (no fee) at Lakeside Beach State Park.
- Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1: The 59th meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association.** Morris Conference Center at SUNY Odeno.
- Oct. 8: BOS Annual October Count.** Contact Mike Hamilton at 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com. Section 14 compiler needed to replace B. Walker.
- Oct. 11: BOS Meeting** 7:30 PM Buffalo Museum of Science. Michael Hamilton and Robert DeLeon will present results of the 2005 BOS April and May Counts. Comparisons will be made with previous 70 years of count data.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### THE MONTH: July

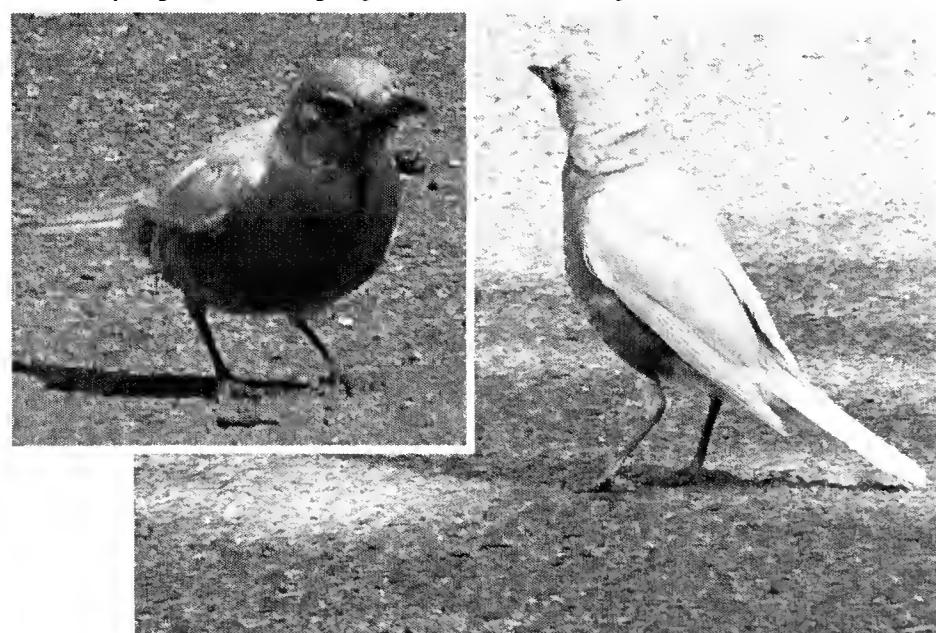
by Mike Zebehazy

July was true to form across our region with an abundance of heat and humidity. The heat was persistent enough to make July the 9th warmest in 64 years of record keeping at the Buffalo Airport. The average temperature, 73.7 °F, was about three degrees above normal. The warmest days came during mid month as well as the final week. In fact, the final seven days had minimums of 70 degrees or higher. However, a persistent southwest flow off Lake Erie kept heat from extreme levels so that the monthly high was a relatively tame 88 degrees. Rainfall varied widely across the Metro area as it so often does in summer because of thunderstorms. Monthly totals ranged from near 3 inches over the city of Buffalo to over eight inches across some northern suburbs. Normally our sunniest month, July sunshine totaled 65 percent of the possible 301.1 hours, a few points less than usual.

The month began on the quiet side and was becoming quite dry until some major general rains fell on the 12th. It became quite warm during the following week and conditions were becoming quite dry again by the third week with a brief cooler period. The final week was very active as our region was on the northwest periphery of a building heat ridge in the middle of the country. This allowed for thunderstorms to roll down from the northwest and interacted with lake boundaries producing some very heavy thunderstorms, mainly across the northern suburbs. Events included torrential rains in Niagara Falls on the 23rd, a 2 to 4 inch deluge over the northtowns early on the 28th and damaging thunderstorms northeast of the city on the 29th.

The month ended on the steamy side with Lake Erie up to 76 degrees, three degrees above normal for midsummer. [National Weather Service, Buffalo, NY.]

In general, July appeared to be relatively uneventful with a few exceptions. The Dickcissel group originally discovered last month on Youngstown-Wilson Road in the Town of Porter continued this month with some interesting developments. On July 1st, Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter observed three males and a female. They were observed again on the 9th. Then on the 16th D'Anna noted two adult males at the site as well as a female attending at least three young in a nest. He said, "*With a scope from the road, I was able to see the nest and, three times, watch the female feed young in the nest as well as swallow fecal sacs. Meanwhile the mate would sing nearby.*" July 20th D'Anna reported the following: "*I have sad news. On my way home from work today, I went by the Dickcissel field to check on the nest. The nest had been on the south side of the road (i.e. opposite the nice field) just on the back side of the ditch. When I was there this past weekend, there was lots of vegetation on the road shoulder and in the ditch which made it difficult to see the nest and to see what it was placed in, as I did not get that close to it. Within the last few days, the town (presumably) mowed the shoulder AND the ditch, all the way up to the top of the back side of the ditch. I looked*



*Two perspectives of a partial albinistic American Robin photographed by Kayo Roy in Fonthill, ONT on July 3, 2006.*

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Please mail correspondence to:

Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson

Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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River. Birders are asked to please look for Great Egrets with red bands with white letter/number codes above the "knee" of the left leg and the traditional aluminum band above the "ankle" of the right leg. If you see any, please record the date and location and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) so we can better document the dispersal pattern of these fledglings. Report all sightings of Great Egret with red color bands to at least one of the following locations: D.V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T4, Phone: 416-739-5846 or E-mail: [chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca](mailto:chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca) and/or Connie Adams, NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203, Phone 716-851-7010 or E-mail: [cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

The Fall migration of shorebirds through the region clearly began by the end of the first week of the month and was noted by many observers.

Other interesting reports included the following: Peter Yoerg described an "incredible 20 to 30 minute" Least Bittern show as two birds entertained him with interesting vocalizations and movements in the cattails at the Tonawanda WMA. Yoerg also reported on the Merlin's of

*at where I had visually marked the nest location and I did not see the nest. But then, on the ground, at the extreme edge of where the mower had been, was the nest, completely empty. Since the nestlings were at most only a couple of days old when I discovered the nest, they surely could not have survived. Had the nest been placed in the small dogwood just a few inches further back, as I had thought it had been, the nest would most likely have been unscathed."*

Surprisingly, on the 29th while scoping the area from the road he watched a male carrying food several times, indicating the presence of a second nesting pair. See last month's issue for more information regarding this species.

The incredible numbers of Great Egrets at the Tonawanda WMA included several with red bands indicating they were banded at Motor Island in the Niagara

River. Birders are asked to please look for Great Egrets with red bands with white letter/number codes above the "knee" of the left leg and the traditional aluminum band above the "ankle" of the right leg. If you see any, please record the date and location and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) so we can better document the dispersal pattern of these fledglings. Report all sightings of Great Egret with red color bands to at least one of the following locations: D.V. Chip Weseloh, Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region, 4905 Dufferin St., Downsview, Ontario, M3H 5T4, Phone: 416-739-5846 or E-mail: [chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca](mailto:chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca) and/or Connie Adams, NYSDEC, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203, Phone 716-851-7010 or E-mail: [cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

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the University at Buffalo, at last confirming nesting at this site. Terry Mosher described an Acadian Flycatcher nest containing at least three nestlings. The nest, "...frail and loosely constructed as is typical with this species was near the tip of a low branch on an Eastern Hemlock about 6 1/2 feet above a trail passing through bottomland woods." Bill Watson and Jim Pawlicki watched an adult male Orchard Oriole feed berries to a fledgling at Rock Point Provincial Park. Watson also presented a comprehensive verification report of an exceptionally early, worn, juvenile Forster's Tern at Fort Niagara State Park.

Finally, as one can determine from the records this month, the unfortunate increase of Mute Swan numbers continues.

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding in Western New York

by David Junkin

In 1999, a friend was asked by the Pennsylvania Game Commission to trap Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at his bird banding station in Coudersport, PA. The plan was to setup standard passerine nets in the evening and then lure birds into the nets with playback of NSWO song. My friend was willing to try it and thought that during the season, he MIGHT catch a single owl. To his surprise, he caught 75 between Sept. 25 and mid-Nov.

The next year, he introduced me to the system and became my mentor. I set up nets at my usual banding station off Pee Dee Road in the town of Wethersfield (Post Office – Bliss), using a 200 foot extension cord to operate the cassette player. I opened five twelve meter nets with the cassette player situated near the middle. On rainy, snowy or windy nights the nets were not opened. I started only on Oct. 18, since it took me awhile to fashion a continuous play tape of NSWO vocalizations. On Oct. 21, I captured 14 NSWOs, one of which I had previously banded.

On Monday Oct. 23, 2000, I caught and banded a NSWO that my mentor at Coudersport recaptured on Saturday Oct. 28, only days later. Now that's the way the system is supposed to work! We were both pretty excited. At the completion of that banding season, Nov. 4, I had captured and banded 25 NSWO.

In 2001, the banding operation began Sept. 17, and my wife, Sandy, and I captured our first NSWO of the season that night. This was one of only 12 owls banded during a shortened season.

In addition to NSWO, we often hear Eastern Screech, Long-eared, Barred, and Great Horned Owls. Twice we have captured Barred Owls, presumably drawn (hunting) to the nets with the NSWO playback tape. Occasionally we would find a hole in a net and could only ponder the culprit – perhaps owl, coyote, fox, or raccoon. We also have beavers in a nearby pond that may have been responsible.

(continued on page 75)

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

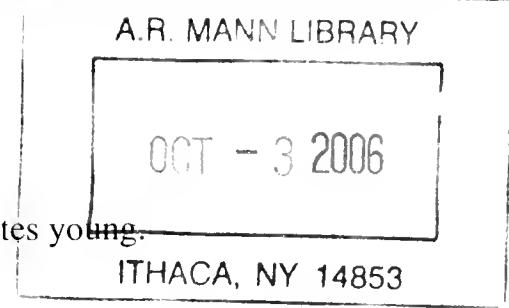
\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.



<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	6; 15	2 ad + 2 yg; 2 ad + 6 yg	Wilson	Watson, D'Anna, Potter
"	6; 11	1; 5	Fort Erie	Watson, Pawlicki
Ring-necked Duck	7	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
Common Goldeneye	15; 28	1; 1	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Merganser	2	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	6	<u>69</u>	Fort Erie	Watson
"	11	<u>71</u>	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15; 28	<u>44</u> ; 10	Sheridan	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	6; 11	9; 5	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	7	22	Batavia WWTP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	6	970	Mohawk I. (Ont)	Watson
"	11	430	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	28	510	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
* Least Bittern	9	2	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Great Egret	9	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	12 - 31	1 - 10	Tonawanda	Hess
"	17; 31	140; 75	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	19	15	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	23	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
Osprey	1 - 7	1 ad (n)	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess
"	1 - 7	2 ad (n)	Allegany SP	Hess
"	7 - 22	1 ad+3 juv	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	9	5 + 2 n	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	22	4 ad+3 juv	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Bald Eagle	7; 22	1 ad; 1 ad	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	15; 28	2 ad; 2 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
Red-shouldered Hawk	16	3	Collins	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1 ad, 2 yg	Hunters Creek Park	Yoerg, Henderson
Broad-winged Hawk	4; 25	1; 1	Alfred	Brooks
Merlin	3-27	1-3	UB campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	18	1	Niagara Falls SP	Lazarczyk et al
"	24; 27	2	Buffalo	Morgante
Black-bellied Plover	30F	10	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
Semipalmated Plover	7F; 22	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Greater Yellowlegs	7F	2	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
"	30	2	Wainfleet	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Yellowlegs	5F	5	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	6	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	7	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15	6	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	7F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	19	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Ruddy Turnstone	30F	2	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Sanderling	11F; 15	2; 2	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Semipalm. Sandpiper	11F; 15	1; 9	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Least Sandpiper	6F; 11	17; 15	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	6	10	Grabell Pt. (Ont).	Watson
"	9; 16	2; 3	Silver Creek reservoir	Neveu
"	23	3	Times Beach NP	Salembier
Pectoral Sandpiper	30F	6	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Stilt Sandpiper	30F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Forster's Tern	<u>16</u>	2	Ft. Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Black Tern	7; 22; 23	1; 7; 3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	9	19	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	28	7	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
Common Nighthawk	1 - 31	2	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Buffalo	Morgante
Red-headed Wdpkr.	12	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Lazarczyk, Partridge
"	15	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	16	2	Ft. Niagara SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Acadian Flycatcher	1 - 7	5	Allegany SP	Hess
"	8	5 (+n)	Portland	Mosher, Morse et al
"	9	1	Villenova	Neveu
"	23	3	Hunters Creek Park	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Raven	1	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Hess
"	4	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	5	2	Andover	Brooks
"	13; 20	2; 2	Alfred	Brooks
Bank Swallow	19	<u>878</u>	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Cliff Swallow	18	35 + 39 n	Tonawanda Island	Watson
"	20	123	Tonawanda Island	Lazarczyk
Carolina Wren	6; 7	1; 1	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	13	2	Times Beach NP	Hess
Winter Wren	1 - 7	3	Allegany SP	Hess
"	4; 9; 23	1; 2; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	9	4	Lost Nation SF	Morgante
Swainson's Thrush	1 - 7; 8	3; 1	Allegany SP	Hess; Chilton
Hermit Thrush	4; 23	1; 1	Ward	Brooks
"	17	1	Villenova	Lazarczyk, Beattie, Dart
Brewster's Warbler	7	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Nashville Warbler	1 - 7	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Prairie Warbler	1	2	Andover	Brooks
"	8; 16	5; 4	Yorkshire	Yoerg, Henderson
Vesper Sparrow	2	1	Newfane	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	5	1	Andover	Brooks
"	8	2	Ashford	Yoerg
Grasshopper Sparrow	3; 4; 27	1; 1; 2	Andover	Brooks
"	9	4	Porter	D'Anna
Henslow's Sparrow	2	1	Lancaster	Pawlicki, Salembier
Dickcissel	1 - 29	2 - 4	Porter	D'Anna
"	16	2 + n	Porter	Watson
"	16	3 + n w. yg	Porter	D'Anna
Orchard Oriole	1 - 29	1 - 2	Porter (2 locs.)	D'Anna, Potter
"	11; 15	1 ad+1 yg	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Orchard Oriole	23	1	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:</b>				<b>253</b>
<b>Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month + others:</b>				<b>009</b>
<b>Total for the year 2006:</b>				<b>262</b>

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

(continued from page 72)

In 2002 and 2003 we captured 33 and 20 NSWOs, respectively. Two years later, one of the 2003 birds was recaptured at Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario, CA. A Barred Owl was also captured in 2003.

In 2004, 44 NSWOs were captured and strangely, on the evening of October 26, 2004, we recaptured 4 NSWOs previously banded elsewhere, 3 on a single net check and 1 on the following. These owls were initially banded by: (1, 2) Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory in Delhi, Ontario on Oct. 6, 2003 and Oct. 1, 2004, (3) Innis Point Bird Observatory in Ottawa, Ontario on October 12, 2004, and (4) a banding subcommittee to Braddock Bay Bird Observatory banding in Addison, Vermont on Oct. 18, 2004.

In 2005, we lengthened the banding season from Sept. 27 to Nov. 15, ending with 51 NSWOs plus a recapture, previously banded on Sept. 30, 2003 near Earlton, Ontario.

Standard banding protocol is followed: species ID, aging, sexing by mass ( $f > m$ ), general health assessed, and other metrics tabulated followed by placement of a leg band. The birds are released unharmed usually after about 20 minutes from capture. Photos may be taken.

#### Visitors are welcome. Call 585-322-9062 or Email

sdjunkin@starband.net. for additional information.

Banding commences at 8 PM and ends near midnight. Peak numbers cluster around the Columbus Day Weekend. We also handled 13 NSWO on the night of Oct. 26, 2004. A nearby owl banding station is operated in Allegany State Park and many others are positioned throughout northern North America.

## Lake Erie/Rock Point P.P. Field Trip

by Mike Hamilton

The BOS field trip to Lake Erie and Rock Point Prov. Park was attended by two, Tom O'Donnell and yours truly. We stopped at Rose Hill Rd. (zip), Stonemill Rd. (6 Mute Swans, 1 Great Egret), Prospect Point Rd. South (40+ Least Sandpipers, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plovers, Lesser Yellowlegs, Spotted and Semipalmated Sandpipers) and Morgan's Point (4 Spotted Sandpipers, Caspian Terns).

The conditions at Rock Point were better with numbers of Killdeer, Semipalmated Plovers, Spotted, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers and two Ruddy Turnstones. Mohawk Island was crowded with Double-crested Cormorants and wheeling Caspian Terns.

The wetlands and marsh just east of the intersection of Canal and Rymer Roads created by Mosaic produced Great Blue Herons and Caspian Terns (6 each). The impoundment across Rymer Rd. to the south, accessible only if the gate is open (permission is granted) produced another 18 Caspian Terns, 5 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Short-billed Dowitcher and a distant unidentifiable peep. Also seen there by Peter Yoerg and Barbara Henderson were a Solitary and Stilt Sandpiper.

Lastly, we checked the turf farms, many of which are in the turf cycle this year, and counted 11 Black-bellied Plovers west of Hutchinson, between Canal Bank and Poth Roads.



*Photo from party for departing BOS member Tom Bearss, a Canadian, who is retiring from the Consulate and moving to Vancouver. From left around the table are Sandra Bearss, Tom O'Donnell, Ron Hacker, Tom Bearss, Sue Hacker, Gerry Rising, Sylvia Galas and Mike Galas at the Old Red Mill on Main Street in Clarence.*

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Buffalo Museum of Science  
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## **BOS website**



## **Buffalo-Niagara Region Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## **September – December Calendar**

- Sept. 27: BOS Meeting** 7:00 PM Buffalo Museum of Science. Emma E. DeLeon: Using Bioacoustic Techniques to Study Avian Migration. She will also present this study at the Fourth North American Ornithological Conference in Veracruz, Mexico on October 3-7 this year.

**Sept. 30: Saturday. Eastern Lake Ontario Plains. Full Day Trip - Bring Lunch/Water.** Leader: Jim Pawlicki (636-3915). Meet at 7:30 a.m. just beyond the entrance toll (no fee) at Lakeside Beach State Park. We will be searching for fall migrants on the lake, gulls, terns, shorebirds, and jaegers along with passerines in the woodlots and fields along the lakeshore.

**Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1: The 59th meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association.** Morris Conference Center at SUNY Oneonta.

**Oct. 8: BOS Annual October Count.** Contact Mike Hamilton at 881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com. Section 14 compiler needed to replace B. Walker.

**Oct. 11: BOS Meeting** 7:00 PM Buffalo Museum of Science. Michael Hamilton and Robert DeLeon will present results of the 2005 BOS April and May Counts. Comparisons will be made with previous 70 years of count data.

**Oct. 25: BOS Meeting** 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron using her photos will discuss the identification, molts, plumages and aging of the southbound adult and juvenile shorebirds in Ontario, including her two recent shorebird surveys on James Bay with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**Nov. 8: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**Dec. 13: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. This will be preceded by a business meeting.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 9 September, 2006

### THE MONTH: August

by Jerry Lazarczyk

August of 2006 was not an unusual August for Buffalo. The month began with a couple of warm humid days then settled into a typical August pattern of warm days punctuated with about seven days of rain. The initial warmth was followed by a cool spell from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> then near normal conditions except for cool temperatures the last three days. The average temperature was 69.7 degrees Fahrenheit, which was 0.6 degrees over normal. The heaviest rain fell on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with close to an inch. A good rain also fell on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and close to an inch accumulated between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. The rain total of 3.28 inches was 0.59 inches below normal. However, the rains were frequent enough that the landscape stayed greener than many other years. The average temperature was less than a degree above normal. There was only one day of 90 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and twelve days 80 and above, only one day reached 80 after the 18<sup>th</sup> giving the impression of a cool August. The peak wind speed for the month was 37 mph from the Northwest on the second, a little too early for bringing in migrants. The highest barometric pressure was 30.28 on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

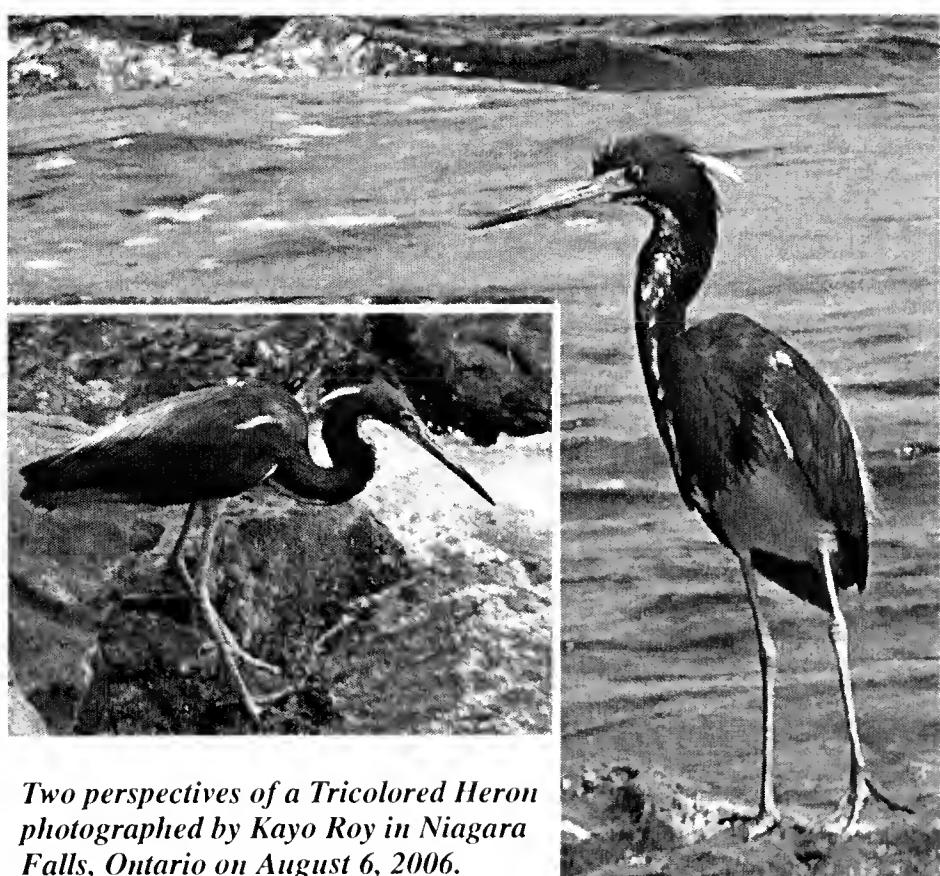
Arguably the best bird of the month was a Tricolored Heron, possibly the same bird seen on Grand Island earlier in the year. It was first verified by Kayo Roy, then independently by Bill Watson and myself. An extremely unusual second Tricolored Heron, first ever in BOS records, was verified by D'Anna and sporadically seen with the first Tricolored Heron. The first heron was consistently seen feeding in the Niagara River opposite the Dufferin Islands in Niagara Falls, Ontario. There are four other August records of Louisiana Heron in our area, all since 1998.

The Lawrence's Warbler hybrid is an exceptional sight-

ing at any time of the year. As there are NO verified BOS records from August, Jim Pawlicki's finding on August 31 in Newstead was very exceptional.

Young of the year Mute Swans were not recorded in BOS records prior to the year 2002 when Willie D'Anna found a Mute Swan sitting on a nest. In 2004, young of the year were reported by D'Anna, Watson and O'Donnell [This was the same nest independently reported by three different people]. This year Watson noted swans with two young. Beardslee & Mitchell doubted Mute Swans bred in western New York prior to 1939, assuming all were introduced birds. For many years thereafter no reports of Mute Swan migrants, much less young of the year, were made until the 1960's. The Department of Environmental Conservation has taken a keen interest in the Mute Swan populations.

Numbers of Double-crested Cormorants exceeding 1000 were not seen in BOS records until Bill Watson in 1996 began religiously counting and recording their ever-growing numbers. Willie D'Anna recorded 6,500 birds in 2002 near Rock Point Provincial Park in Ontario. This year Watson found almost 1,500 in (Lowbanks) Dunnville, Ontario.



*Two perspectives of a Tricolored Heron photographed by Kayo Roy in Niagara Falls, Ontario on August 6, 2006.*

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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Common Moorhen, formerly known as the Florida Gallinule then the Common Gallinule, has experienced its ups and downs in the pre-1964 era. Beardslee and Mitchell report that the bird was more common in the 1932-1952 period than formerly. During the next decade, however, its numbers had declined by at least 50% they opined.

The sighting of a Sandhill Crane is an exceptional event in August with only one other BOS record (that of four adults). In fact there are only 14 records for this species in the BOS database. This August, two adults and a young-of-the-year bird were reported in Haldimand, Ontario possibly representing the first evidence of breeding Sandhill Cranes in the BOS region. Locals claim the cranes have been nesting in this area for at least 3 years previous.

BOS records for Merlin are near absent for June and only a handful exist for July and August. The BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds considers the Merlin an exceptional sighting in August. [Merlins have nested in the BOS study area, see Prothonotary vol 71, No's 6-8] However, this year a number of validation reports was accepted for August. Is the Merlin increasing? We will need more than just a single year's findings. Pre-1964 records in Beardslee

Prior to 1964, numbers recorded were well below 50.

Unprecedented numbers of the uncommon Stilt Sandpiper in the BOS area were seen in Amherst and verified by Jim Pawlicki as a result of a well thought out weather plan. He noted heavy weather coming from the northwest, and figured the system would ground all migrating birds – shorebirds, he reasoned, would be found near suitable water habitat. This is where he looked after the storm and was well rewarded, observing 55 Stilt Sandpipers, a number that surpassed the previous high of 46.

The Common Moorhen is an uncommon find in the BOS area yet Bill Watson found 10 at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant, a total exceeded or matched only 5 times in all BOS records. The BOS seasonal checklist says the Moorhen is decreasing. The Com-

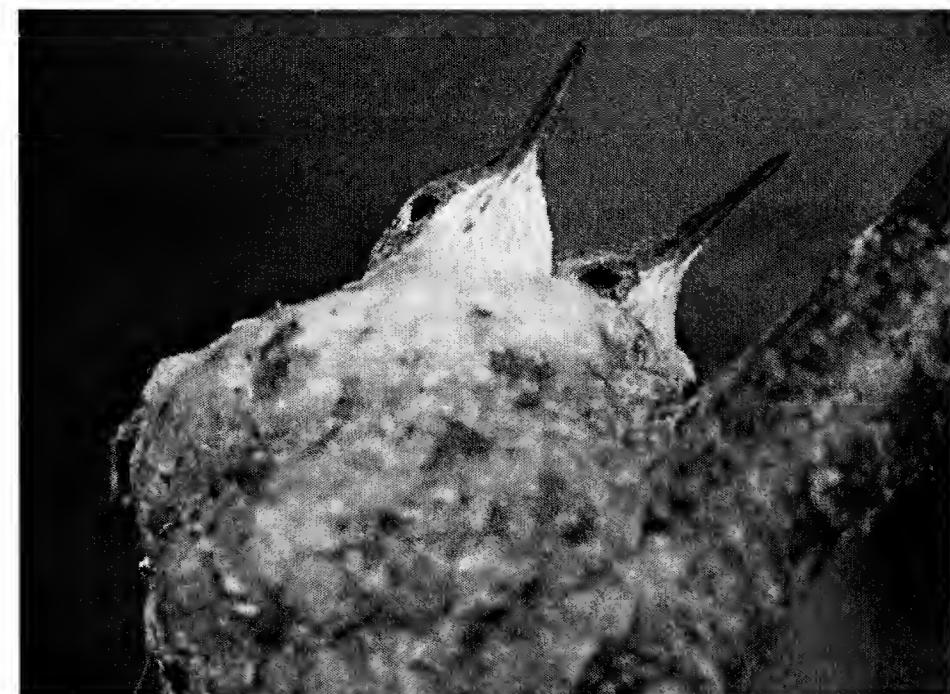
& Mitchell give mixed reviews on the Merlin (formerly known as Eastern Pigeon Hawk then Pigeon Hawk) but considered it a rare bird. Incidentally, in Rochester, an article by Jim Fry in the August 18<sup>th</sup> Rochester Chronicle and Dealer describes a successful Merlin nest there with three fledged young. This after a 60 year absence.

Philadelphia Vireo seen on the 17<sup>th</sup> predates the next earliest on the 19<sup>th</sup> by two days. The Philadelphia Vireo is considered rare in the BOS Seasonal Checklist of the Birds yet this sighting at Rock Point Provincial Park is exciting because a new early date has been set. Beardslee & Mitchell (pre-1964) also consider the find an uncommon to rare occurrence, giving the reason for the numerous records in recent years as the increased number of observers in the field rather than to any increase on the part of the species.

A rare for August Long-tailed Duck was reported by Jim Landau and identified independently by Andrle, Rew et al at Rock Point Provincial Park. Interestingly this duck, formerly known as Oldsquaw, when recorded in August is most often reported from Lake Erie, not Lake Ontario or the Niagara River.

Finally, a Western Sandpiper at the Rock Point Provincial Park was found and verified by Jim Pawlicki. Although this species is noteworthy, 103 records of this species are currently present in the BOS database.

I thank Bill Watson for his information, insights, suggestions, criticisms, and admonitions. I want to thank Dave Suggs for being especially responsive to my request for information from the BOS database (1964 to 2005; pre-1964 data is from Beardslee & Mitchell, Birds of the Niagara Region). I would also like to thank Dr. Robert Andrle for his sage advice and patient discussion of matters ornithological.



Inset Right: Nestling Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and nest photographed by David Schultz in Strykersville, Wyoming County, NY in August 2006..

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

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- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	13	2 ad, 2 yg	Wilson	Watson
Northern Shoveler	15	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	20	4	Sherbrooke (Ont)	D'Anna et al
<u>Long-tailed Duck</u>	<u>20F; 23, 28</u>	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Landau et al; Yoerg
Common Goldeneye	4	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Merganser	4; 20; 29	15; 68; 5	Sheridan	Neveu
"	5	34	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna
"	6	30	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	12	12	Silver Creek	Neveu
Red-br. Merganser	5	1	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna
"	5	8	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	9	62	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	20F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
D.-crested Cormorant	20	1490	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Great Egret	3; 9	24; 25	Motor I.	Watson
"	4; 8	100; 49	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	9	22	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	14	2	West Lincoln (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	20	Tifft NP	Morgante
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	6, 29	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Roy, Watson, Lazarczyk,
"	20	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Black-cr. Night-Heron	26	22	Tifft NP	Morgante
Osprey	8	2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	13	1	Wilson	Watson
"	26	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	4 - 29	8 max (juv)	Sheridan	Neveu
"	20	2 imm	Dunnville (Ont)	Andrle et al
"	20	1 ad, 1 imm	Allegany SP	Baird
"	20	1 imm	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
"	31	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Red-shouldered Hawk	6	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	9	1	Marilla	Holmes
Broad-winged Hawk	9	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	10	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Merlin	<u>5</u>	3	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	<u>18</u>	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	<u>19</u>	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	<u>23</u>	1	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg
"	<u>27</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	23	2 ad, 1 juv	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg
Black-bellied Plover	5; 20	1; 12	Dunnville (Ont)	D'Anna; Andrle et al
"	5	8	Moulton (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	14 - 23	108	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	17	72	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
* Amer. Golden-Plover	19F;28;30	2; 9; 3	Clarence	Yoerg
"	20	1	Moulton (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	27	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	1	Clarence	Pawlicki
Semipalmated Plover	26; 30	8; 8	Tifft NP	Morgante; Andrlé
Greater Yellowlegs	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	52	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	17	47	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	5	Tifft NP	Morgante
Upland Sandpiper	5	1	Moulton (Ont)	D'Anna
Ruddy Turnstone	14 - 28; 17	5; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Watson Pawlicki
* Red Knot	17F; 26	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Pinecrest Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Sanderling	5	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
Semipalm. Sandpiper	20	33	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	23F;26;28	1 ad	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg; Pawlicki; Yoerg
Least Sandpiper	20	44	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	23F; 28	1; 1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	26	1	Long Beach CA(Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	28	2	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
* Baird's Sandpiper	17F; 28	2; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	17F	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20; 26	1; 2	Pinecrest Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	28	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	3	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
Stilt Sandpiper	14	<u>55</u>	Amherst	Pawlicki, Rising, Watson
"	17	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	19; 23	3; 4	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	28	4	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
Short-b. Dowitcher	13F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	16;17; 20	1; 1; 10	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson; Watson
"	17; 20	10; 12	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Red-necked Phalarope	20	1	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Wells
Bonaparte's Gull	26	23 juv	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	17	47	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Common Tern	6	102	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Forster's Tern	20	1	Pinecrest Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	25	1	Wilson	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Black Tern	27	3	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Common Nighthawk	18	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	25	30	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	26	20	Clarence	Morgante
* Whip-poor-will	6F; 19	2; 2	Wainfleet (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr.	5	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	D'Anna
"	12	1	Fort Niagara SP	Lazarczyk, Partridge
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	13F	1	Almond	Pawlicki
"	15; 26	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki; Morgante
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Acadian Flycatcher	5	2	Stockton	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	6L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Philadelphia Vireo	17F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	20	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Common Raven	8; 17; 30	2; 2; 2	Alfred	Brooks
"	13	2	Caneadea	Pawlicki
"	13	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	20	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Carolina Wren	1	1	Times Beach NP	Watson et al
"	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	17	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Winter Wren	6	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	13; 20	1; 1	Ward	Brooks
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	17	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	3	Long Beach CA	Watson
"	27	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	30	2	Times Beach NP	Andrle
* <u>Lawrence's Warbler</u>	31	1	Newstead	Pawlicki
Tennessee Warbler	20F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Potter et al
"	23	1	Eden	Andrle
Nashville Warbler	17F; 20	1; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Potter et al; Watson et al
Chestnut-s. Warbler	23F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
Magnolia Warbler	17F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	26	8	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
"	26	8	Tifft NP	Morgante
Cape May Warbler	17F; 20	5; 4	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al; D'Anna et al
"	21	1	Wilson	Potter
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	20F	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
Yellow-r. Warbler	17F; 20	1; 3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al; D'Anna et al
Blackburnian Warbler	17F; 20	2; 2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al; Potter et al
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
Prairie Warbler	12	1	Caneadea	Pawlicki
Bay-breasted Warbler	23F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	29; 30	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Blackpoll Warbler	29F	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Black-and-white Warbler	17F; 20	3; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al; Potter et al
Ovenbird	24F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
Northern Waterthrush	17F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Wilson	Potter
Connecticut Warbler	29F	1	Tifft NP	Andrle
Mourning Warbler	21	1	Wilson	Potter
"	26	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
Wilson's Warbler	17F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Canada Warbler	15F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17; 20	2; 1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al; D'Anna et al
Scarlet Tanager	26F	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	2	Andover	Brooks

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**262**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**006**

**Total for the year 2006:**

**268**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
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**Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## October – December Calendar

- Oct. 25: BOS Meeting** 7 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jean Iron will discuss identification, molts, plumages and aging of adult and juvenile shorebirds in Ontario, including her two recent shorebird surveys on James Bay with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

**Oct. 28: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip** for fall migrants. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637/dannapotter@wzrd.com). Meet 8 AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104

**Nov. 8: BOS Meeting** at 7 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**Nov. 15: Scott Weidensaul** at 7 PM at Jamestown High School Auditorium – 350 E. 2nd St. Jamestown, NY For more information contact Jim Berry at 800-758-6841 extension 225 (jberry@rtpi.org) \$7 – Members \$5

**Nov. 20: Sunday. Niagara River with Rochester GOS for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet 9 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship – birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com) and GOS Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

**Dec. 13: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration** at 7 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum. Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. This will be preceded by a business meeting.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 10 October, 2006

### THE MONTH: September

*Tim Baird*

Summer's turn to autumn should not be abrupt. I am of the opinion that September should let us down gently. September 2006 paid no attention to my wishes. The month started wet from Topical Storm Ernesto's remnants and ended wet with wet in between.

The National Weather Service characterized September 2006 as "a wet and unsettled month for western New York". September claimed fame as Buffalo's first cooler than normal month in 2006. The average 60.5 °F temperature was one degree below normal for September, and it was only the second month in the past 16 months that has averaged cooler than normal.

September also pushed the envelope for cloudy and wet. Buffalo received at least some rainfall on 17 September days. The month's total of 6.95 inches of rain was nearly double the norm of 3.11 inches, and it ranks fourth all-time on the list of wettest Septembers. September's cloud cover ranks even higher, tying for third place as the cloudiest September in 100 years with only 37% of the possible sunshine.

Streams ran high for the month and soils were "unusually wet" according to the National Weather Service. A relatively even distribution of rain during the month reduced the threat of flooding. September's consistently high streams and reservoirs eliminated what little stop over habitat is available to shorebirds in the southern tier. Exposed streamside gravel beds and open mudflats were basically nonexistent.

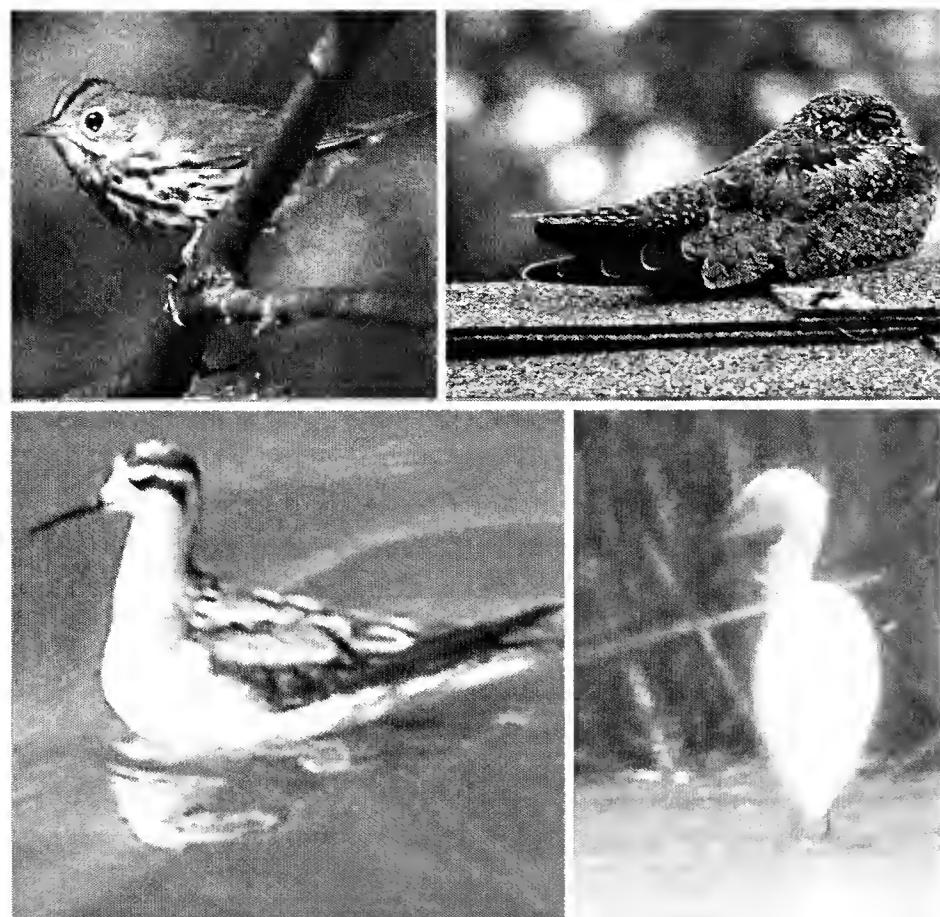
Lake Erie fell to 62 °F, one degree below normal for the end of September. September's winds were light to moderate. I whole heartedly agree with the National Weather Service summary of

September's weather, "...an unsettled and somewhat disappointing end to a fine summer". I might note here that knowing what October would bring to Buffalo

and its suburbs puts September's weather into a category of minor inconvenience, and my complaining about it a bit embarrassing.

Regardless of its weather idiosyncrasies, September is always a transition month for birds in the northeast and as such brings excitement to those who follow the changes.

Larzarczyk's verification report of Mute Swans in Wilson on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, indicates that 6 of the 8 swans present were in immature plumage. One might conjecture that this was a family group, and if so, it illustrates how prolific this troublesome exotic species can be. The Batavia Waste



Clockwise - from lower Left; (1) Red-necked Phalarope photographed by Mike Zebehazy at the Batavia WWTP on the 27th, (2) Ovenbird photographed by Tim Baird at Allegany SP on the 27th, (3) Common Nighthawk photographed by Kayo Roy at Port Colborne, Ont. on the 4th and (4) Snowy Egret photographed by Willie D'Anna at Tifft NP on the 6th.

83 The Month

*Tim Baird*

85 Noteworthy Records

*Bruce Chilton*

90 BOS Calendar & CBCs

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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of four dates with the latest reported on the 10<sup>th</sup> (Galas). Generally reported in the company of a Great Egret, observers could easily compare the size difference between the two egret species. Perhaps the same bird moved to Times Beach Nature Preserve where one Snowy Egret was reported on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> (Andrle, Salembier, D'Anna).

Like the post-breeding herons, our birds of prey are on the move during September. Reports of single Ospreys are scattered throughout the month, and several observers reported Bald Eagles with an impressive maximum of 11 at Saint Columbans, along Lake Erie in the Town of Sheridan, on the 4<sup>th</sup> seen by Neveu. Neveu noted 8 juvenal Bald Eagles and one adult at the same location on the 20<sup>th</sup> stating, "All nine eagles were aloft at the same time, riding the strong westerly winds. Quite a spectacle." Merlin continue their presence in western New York and adjacent Canada with Yoerg reporting a maximum of 3 on the 29<sup>th</sup> at University of Buffalo's south campus. A species on the rebound, one Peregrine Falcon was present at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Pawlicki).

Water Treatment Plant continued its ability to connect birders with birds. Ruddy Ducks topped out at 269 seen there on the 28<sup>th</sup> (Morgante, Watson, *et. al.*). Eared Grebes have become a specialty of the treatment plant, and were reported on several dates spanning the month, with a maximum of 3 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (Morgante).

The Double-crested Cormorant in recent years has become regular, but not very numerous on the plateau to the south. The same cannot be said about the Great Lakes and their adjacent lowlands. Over 1000 of this species were present at Grand Island on September 14<sup>th</sup> (Lazarczyk). Another species continuing to increase in the Buffalo area is the Great Egret typified by Watson's report of 39 at Strawberry Island on September 8. Watson and Pawlicki found a single Snowy Egret at Tifft Nature Preserve on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first

Another species apparently on the increase in the east, a single Sandhill Crane was observed flying over Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge by Pawlicki on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Reports for plovers and sandpipers totaled 20 species for the month. D'Anna's verification report for the Long-billed Dowitcher (D'Anna *et al*) found at Lakeside Beach State Park illustrates the importance of the species' voice as a characteristic used to distinguish it from the similar Short-billed Dowitcher. The only phalarope reported was a Red-necked Phalarope seen and photographed at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant by Zebehazy on September 27<sup>th</sup>.

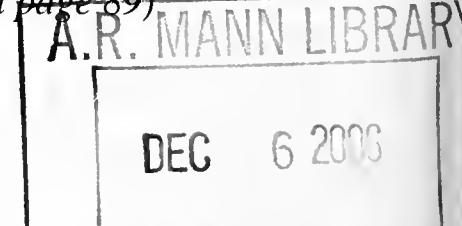
An adult and a juvenal Parasitic Jaeger and possibly additional birds of this species occurred at Athol Springs on September 24<sup>th</sup> (Yoerg and Henderson). A single Laughing Gull was observed by several people (Yoerg, Watson *et al*) on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Fort Erie and hints at the excitement that is gull season on the Niagara Frontier.

DeFrancisco's report of 46 Common Nighthawks over Falconer on September 6<sup>th</sup> is an encouraging observation of this declining species. Roberson's count of 70 Chimney Swifts over Goat Island on the September 30<sup>th</sup> shows the difference in fall occurrence of this species in the vicinity of the Great Lakes compared with the interior southern counties where Chimney Swifts are rarely recorded after late August. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered into late September with DeFrancisco reporting 3 at Carroll on the 25<sup>th</sup> and Salembier finding one in Williamsville on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our passerines are on the move this month, particularly those dependent on summer's waning abundance of invertebrates. Olive-sided Flycatchers generally pass through our area in late spring and late summer, two observed by Galas and Rising at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 10<sup>th</sup> are the first reported for 2006. Pawlicki observed a White-eyed Vireo in Amherst on the 21<sup>st</sup>. His description included a reference to the vireo's "pale gray" iris indicating this was a first fall bird. There were several reports of single Philadelphia Vireos, the latest on the 26<sup>th</sup> at Amherst State Park (Salembier).

September is a good thrush month. A few Gray-cheeked Thrushes were observed including Hess' report of four on the 26<sup>th</sup> in Tonawanda. Yoerg reported hearing about 50 Gray-cheeked Thrushes migrating at night throughout the month. Morgante counted more than 30 Swainson's Thrushes in the half hour before dawn of September 16<sup>th</sup> in Orchard Park. Pawlicki noted 1209 American Robins "over" Amherst as the month neared its end on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Robins may have left our lawns, but large numbers continue to occupy our region as they now take advantage of the abundant wild fruits. I would speculate that autumn may bring the region its highest yearly population of American Robins as northern birds swell the ranks.

(continued on page 89)



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	7; 23	2 ad, <u>6</u> imm	Wilson	Lazarczyk; Watson, Pawlicki,
"	30	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson et al (BOS)
Wood Duck	2	62	Alexander	Beattie
Northern Shoveler	3; 10	40; 178	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
Ring-necked Duck	26F	13	Attica	Dart, Beattie
Greater Scaup	26F	3	Attica	Dart, Beattie
"	29	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	30F	7	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson et al (BOS)
White-winged Scoter	15F; 29	1; 104	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	12	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson, Pawlicki
Long-tailed Duck	4	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Merganser	4 - 27	23 - 108	Sheridan	Neveu
"	8	200	Sheridan	Lazarczyk
Ruddy Duck	3; 10; 28	58; 90; 269	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Watson et al
"	29	19	Dayton	Neveu
Common Loon	10	9	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
"	12	2	Dayton	Neveu
"	30	18	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson, Pawlicki (BOS)
Pied-billed Grebe	17	37	Port Colborne (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Horned Grebe	23F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26	4	Attica	Dart, Beattie
Red-necked Grebe	<u>10F</u>	3	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	3; 10	3; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
"	28	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy, Watson et al
D.-crested Cormorant	5	225	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
"	12	545	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	14; 23	1000; 800	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Great Egret	3; 28	6; 6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
"	4	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5 - 17	6; 2; 3	Times Beach NP	Andrle, Morgante et al
"	7 - 24	1 - 2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	39	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	14	4	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	14	3	Amherst	Pawlicki
* <u>Snowy Egret</u>	2; 6; 10	1; 1; 1	Tiffet NP	Pawlicki, Watson; K. Landau; D'Anna, Galas, Salembier
"	16; 19	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle, Salembier; D'Anna
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	12	Tiffet NP	Watson
"	7	3	South Park (Bflo)	Rew
Osprey	3	1	Batavia	Morgante
"	3	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	4; 17	1; 1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	4; 25	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	5	1	Buffalo	Watson
"	16; 21	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	23	1	Salamanca	Baird
Bald Eagle	3	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	3; 22	1 ad; 2 juv	Hanover	Neveu
"	3 - 25	1 - 2 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	3 - 27	6 juv max	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	7 - 30	10 juv, 1 ad max	Sheridan	Neveu
"	16	1 imm	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	17	2 ad	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	25	1	Porter	D'Anna
Northern Harrier	24	2	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Broad-winged Hawk	1; 10	1; 1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	25	4	Carroll	DeFrancisco
Merlin	4	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15; 29	3 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	17	1	Moulton Twp. (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
"	17	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg, Henderson
Peregrine Falcon	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Black-bellied Plover	17	6	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	2	Yates	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	28	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Amer. Golden-Plover	3	1	Clarence	Pawlicki
"	17	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Semipalmated Plover	6; 18; 27	2; 1; 1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	9	9	Tifft NP	Watson, Bogacki (BOS)
"	11; 25	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Solitary Sandpiper	24	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	29	1	Hanover	Neveu
Sanderling	17	54	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Pawlicki
White-r. Sandpiper	4	4	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	2	Port Colborne (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
"	17	2	Long Beach (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Baird's Sandpiper	17	2	Grabell Pt. (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
Pectoral Sandpiper	24	24	Wilson	Pawlicki
Dunlin	28F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Schlacter
Stilt Sandpiper	4	5	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4; 5	4; 4	Clarence	Pawlicki, Connare
"	17	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-billed Dowitcher	3; 9	1; 2	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson et al
<u>Long-billed Dowitcher</u>	30	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Wilson's Snipe	26	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Red-necked Phalarope	27	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy, Lewandowski
* <u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	24	1 ad, 1 juv	Athol Springs	Yoerg, Henderson
* <u>Laughing Gull</u>	17	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Watson
Bonaparte's Gull	8	300	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	16	198	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
Lesser Bl.-backed Gull	10F	1	Hamburg Town Park	Rew
Caspian Tern	3 - 16	1 - 8	Several WNY locations	Several observers
"	10	15	Hamburg Town Park	Rew
Forster's Tern	2	1	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
"	6; 7	2; 1	Silver Creek	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	2	Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Common Nighthawk	4 - 17	2 - 13	Several locations(WNY&Ont)	Several observers
"	8	46	Falconer	DeFrancisco
Chimney Swift	16	30	Buffalo	Morgante
"	30	70	Goat I.	Roberson
Ruby-t. Hummingbird	25	3	Carroll	DeFrancisco
"	26L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Red-headed Wdpkr.	3	3	Lakeside Cem. (Hamburg)	Rew
".	9	3	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	16; 27	1; 1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	24	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna
"	30	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	2 - 30	1 - 2	Several WNY locations	Several observers
* Olive-s. Flycatcher	10	2	Tifft NP	Galas, Rising
Eastern Wood-Pewee	16	2	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	28	1	Bethany	Beattie
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	4	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	4	1	Rock Point PP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	1	Eden Valley	Andrle
"	21L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Least Flycatcher	16	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	26L	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	10	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	14L	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Eastern Kingbird	3	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	16L	2	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
White-eyed Vireo	21	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Yellow-thr. Vireo	16	1	New Albion	Watson
"	26L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Mitchell
Blue-headed Vireo	17F; 30	1; 1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	29	1	Hanover	Neveu
Warbling Vireo	16	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	29L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7	1	Wilson	Watson
"	16	1	Leon	Watson
"	16; 22	1; 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	17; 21	1; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	19	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	21	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	21;23;27	1; 1; 2	Allegany SP	Baird
Tree Swallow	3	400	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Bank Swallow	2L	150	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
Cliff Swallow	3L	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Carolina Wren	5 - 30	1 - 2	Several WNY locations	Several observers
"	16	8	Times Beach NP	Salembier
Winter Wren	6F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	6; 21	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	16 - 30	1 - 3	Several WNY locations	Several observers
Golden-cr. Kinglet	12F; 23	1; 1	Wilson	Potter, Watson
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	9F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	9F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Bogacki (BOS)
"	10	1	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	16L	3	Times Beach NP	Salembier
Veery	16L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	16L	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5 - 26	1 - 4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	16	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	16	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Swainson's Thrush	3	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	5F; 16	2; 5	Times Beach NP	Andrle; Andrle, Morgante
"	9 - 30	1 - 2	Several WNY locations	Several observers
"	16	30 (night migrants)	Orchard Park	Morgante
Hermit Thrush	26F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
American Robin	29	<u>1209</u>	Amherst	Pawlicki
Northern Mockingbird	26	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
American Pipit	17F	12	Port Colborne (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	30	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson et al (BOS)
Blue-winged Warbler	8F	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	9	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	15L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Brewster's Warbler	11	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Tennessee Warbler	6F; 21; 23	1; 3; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	7	2	Wilson	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16 - 29	1 - 2	Several WNY locations	Several observers
Orange-cr. Warbler	15F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	15F	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	24; 30	2; 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Nashville Warbler	3; 9	7; 3	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson et al (BOS)
"	30	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Northern Parula	5F	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	7	1	Porter	Watson, Pawlicki
"	9 - 23	1 - 3	Several WNY locations	Several observers
"	29	2	Hanover	Neveu
Yellow Warbler	<u>23L</u>	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Chestnut-s. Warbler	21; 25	1; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
Cape May Warbler	17	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	29	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	2	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	9	2	Goat I.	Roberson
Yellow-r. Warbler	30	275	Goat I.	Roberson
Bl.-thr. Green Warb	16	1	Buffalo River	Morgante
"	16	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
"	17; 27	5; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
Blackburnian Warbler	30	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Pine Warbler	3F	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	7	3	Wilson	Watson, Pawlicki
"	23	1	Allegany SP	Baird (Catt. Co. BC)
Palm Warbler	9F	4	Times Beach NP	Salembier, Watson et al
"	16	2	Buffalo River	Morgante
"	16	3	Times Beach NP	Morgante
Bay-breasted Warbler	4	3	Goat I.	Roberson
"	28	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Blackpoll Warbler	5	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	25	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Black-and-white Warbler	10	1	Bethany	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	2	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	21	1	Goat I.	Roberson
Ovenbird	27	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Northern Waterthrush	7; 9	1; 1	Wilson	Watson; Potter
Connecticut Warbler	10	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	18	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Hooded Warbler	3	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	21	1	Wilson	Potter
"	21; 27L	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
Wilson's Warbler	9	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Bogacki (BOS)
"	9; 10	1; 1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	22	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Canada Warbler	6	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Scarlet Tanager	16	1	Leon	Watson
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Amer. Tree Sparrow	26F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Vesper Sparrow	4	1	Clarence	Pawlicki
Lincoln's Sparrow	9F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	10 - 26	1 - 3	Several WNY locations	Several observers
"	30	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	30	1	Pt. Breeze	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
White-thr. Sparrow	9F	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Bogacki (BOS)
"	25	4	Goat I.	Roberson
White-cr. Sparrow	26F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	10	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson, Pawlicki (BOS)
"	30	2	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	1	Carlton	Pawlicki
Rose-br. Grosbeak	5	2	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Indigo Bunting	27	3	Allegany SP	Baird
"	29	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Baltimore Oriole	8	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	9L	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Bogacki (BOS)

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**268**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**004**

**Total for the year 2006:**

**272**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

(continued from page 84)

As a group, wood warblers transition from common to uncommon as September passes. Reports of one of the later migrant species, the Orange-crowned Warbler included two seen by Beattie at the end of the month in Bethany. Yellow Warblers tend to leave their nesting territories quite early and are scarce in September. Salembier verified a late male Yellow Warbler at Tifft Nature Preserve on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Always a good find, single Connecticut Warblers were observed at Times Beach Nature Preserve on the 10<sup>th</sup> (Andrle) and Beaver Island State Park on the 18<sup>th</sup> (Sharon).

By the end of September, seasonal changes have reduced the availability of invertebrates as bird food. Fruits and seeds are abundant now, and the species that exploit this

food source increase. Sparrows as a group take advantage of this bounty. Salembier found an early American Tree Sparrow at Amherst State Park on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The only report of the once common Vesper Sparrow was one bird found in Clarence on the 4<sup>th</sup> (Pawlicki). Lincoln's Sparrows are often secretive and can be a challenge to pick out of a mixed flock of sparrows; however they were reported by many observers in western New York throughout September.

A lingering Baltimore Oriole seen by Watson and Bogacki at Tifft Nature Preserve on September 9<sup>th</sup> is a representative of our summer resident species that leave in September for a warmer climate. It is comforting to expect that they will return with the sun.

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**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## December – January Calendar & CBCs

- Dec. 13:** Wed. Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.
- Dec. 16:** Sat. St. Bonaventure CBC. Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716-925-7109 or [vanscoyl@juno.com](mailto:vanscoyl@juno.com)).
- Dec. 16:** Sat. Beaver Meadow CBC. Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-457-3228; [fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org](mailto:fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org)). Meet 7:30 AM at Audobon Cntr.
- Dec. 17:** Sun. BOS Buffalo, NY Count. Compiler: Bill Bogacki (674-5781; [conservart@aol.com](mailto:conservart@aol.com))
- Dec. 17:** Sun. St. Catharines CBC. Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca); 905-871-2577).
- Dec. 17:** Sun. Jamestown CBC. Compiler: Bob Sundell (716-484-2197; [rsundell@stny.rr.com](mailto:rsundell@stny.rr.com)).
- Dec. 23:** Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC. Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110; [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).
- Dec. 27:** Wed. Oak Orchard CBC. Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-937-5105 or [gails@netacc.net](mailto:gails@netacc.net)).
- Dec. 29:** Fri. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC. Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637; [dannapotter@wzrd.com](mailto:dannapotter@wzrd.com)) for NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433; [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com)) for Canadian side.
- Dec. 30:** Sat. Port Colborne CBC. Compiler: Drew Campbell ([drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com); 1-800-539-2329). Meet at McDonald's (corner of Highway 3 and 58 in Port Colborne) at 8 AM.
- Dec. 30:** Sat. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC. Compiler: Tom O'Donnell ([tmodonnell@adelphia.net](mailto:tmodonnell@adelphia.net); 284-5569)
- Jan. 1:** Mon. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC. Compiler: Joanne Goetz ([goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net); 716-673-1627) and Paul Farver (716-792-9042).
- Jan. 10:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM. Buffalo Museum of Science. Richard Joos of the Univ. of Toronto will present, Little Gulls, a Glimpse at a North American Rarity.
- Jan. 2:** Meeting at 7:00 PM. Buffalo Museum of Science.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 11 November, 2006

### THE MONTH: October

*Bill Watson*

October 2006 will long be remembered for the devastating, thundering snow storm of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. The airport recorded 22.6 inches of snow in a 24-hour period; however, other locations had an accumulation of two feet or more. The heavy, wet, lake effect snow, combined with the leaves still on most trees, resulted in massive damage due to falling limbs. Over 500,000 people were without power, roads were blocked, basements were flooded and many people were without heat or water (including yours truly). Total liquid precipitation for the month was 8.75 inches, 5.56 inches more than normal (with heavy rain also falling from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>) making it the second wettest October on record. The combined 15.70 inches for September and October was the highest ever in Buffalo.

The average temperature was 49.0 °F (1.7 °F below normal) with nine of the first eleven days having highs above 60 °F. The percentage of sunshine was 38%, well below the monthly average of 50%. The average wind speed was 10.5 mph.

The peak gust of 49 mph from the west on the 29<sup>th</sup> produced the following: eight Parasitic Jaegers at Hamburg Town Park; five to twelve jaegers of unknown species at Athol Springs; the season's first Tundra Swans (6) at Hamburg; a Northern Gannet at Hamburg Town Park; the season's first Black-legged Kittiwakes (a total of twelve); the season's first Sabine's Gulls (a minimum of 2) at Hamburg Town Park; and was probably responsible for the season's

first Franklin's Gull at Niagara Falls as well as the appearance of unusually late Chimney Swifts and Tree Swallows. The eight Parasitic Jaegers seen by Bob Andrle at Hamburg Town Park is only bettered by the fifteen observed October 31, 2004 at Athol Springs and the thirteen

observed December 29, 1977 at Niagara Falls. The seven early Black-legged Kittiwakes studied at Athol Springs are the most ever seen at one location. The previous high, six on November 25, 1990, were also observed at Athol Springs. At 5:50 PM at Hamburg Beach, Mike Zebehazy spotted a bird "much larger than the many gulls" with "long narrow pointed wings and pointed tail." This NORTHERN GANNET is our first October record in nearly sixty years. The other October records were October 19, 1947 at the mouth of the Niagara River, and October 21, 1948 at the mouth of the Genesee River.

The 71<sup>st</sup> Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count produced rarities like the Tricolored Heron at Point Abino, immature Mute Swan at Point Breeze, Northern Goshawk at Iroquois NWR, as well as an unusually early Red-throated Loon at Shadigee, Red-necked Grebes at Golden Hill State Park (2) and Barker Bicentennial Park (3), a Snow Bunting in Somerset, and an unusually late Warbling Vireo. The TRICOLOR-ORED HERON, which was seen on October 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, is our first and only fall record. Doug Happ took excellent



*Northern Wheatear photographed by Willie D'Anna (left-top and left-bottom) and Jerry Lazarczyk (above) on the 22nd at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant.*

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Please mail correspondence to:  
 Jack Skalicky  
 178 N. Main Street #55  
 Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
 [Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
 Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
 Gerry Rising  
 William Watson  
 Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
 Eileen Hull

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photographs of the very rare bird, and Mike Zebehazy also has a video of the bird running "through the water with its head held sideways" spearing "with its bill at little fishes it would kick up." Although Northern Goshawk has appeared in Noteworthy Records only three times since 1964, it is found in nine of our 71 October Counts. The only earlier Red-throated Loon than the one observed by Brendan Klick is the October 4, 1945 record at Beaver Island State Park by Art Schaffner. The unusually early Snow Bunting at Niagara-Orleans County Line Road is only bettered by an October 5, 1997, record in Dayton and an August 15, 1947 record in Chili. The very late Warbling Vireo documented by Eric Labato at Three Sisters Islands in Goat Island State Park is our first October Count record and is the latest Warbling Vireo in the last 37 years.

An even earlier Red-necked Grebe was documented by Willie D'Anna on October 7<sup>th</sup> at Wilson. The only earlier migrating Red-necked Grebes were found on September 20, 1988 and September 10, 2006. The August 28, 1983, record was more likely the result of post breeding dispersal.

Greater White-fronted Goose has recently become a rare fall migrant. All but two of our 16 fall records of this species have occurred on or after 1994. Mike Morgante suggested that the recent appearance of this species as a fall migrant is the result of its recent population increase in North America. The four seen in Somerset at Barker Bicentennial Park on Willie D'Anna's Ontario Plains Field Trip (along with four seen in Cheektowaga on November 30, 2003) represent the largest groups of Greater White-fronted Geese seen in the fall.

The most excitement of the month was caused by the discovery of a NORTHERN WHEATEAR that was observed at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant from October 21-23. Mike Morgante was slowly driving his car when a passerine flushed to his left from the rocks near the edge of the lagoon. His "attention was drawn to a bold tail

pattern that had a bright white rump with a dark black tail band. The back was rusty brown and the wings were darker." Mike has been birding Batavia WWTP for more than twelve years and immediately recognized that this bird was "very different from the shorebirds, pipits, sparrows, Snow Buntings, and other species that flush from the rocks of the dike." In the BOS archives the only other records are of two in Hamburg on September 27, 1967, one at Beaver Island State Park on September 25, 1965, and one near Ridgeway, Ontario, September 24, 1949, attesting to the vagrancy of this species and making this year's Northern Wheatear our first October record. There has been a marked increase in sightings in the northeast this fall. A North American map showing the places for all reported Northern Wheatears during 2006 is shown below. This map was prepared and provided by Michael Smith ([mike@enterprisegis.net](mailto:mike@enterprisegis.net)). A short synopsis of this species' breeding areas in N. America and its fall migration route is included on page 103.

Another first record for the month of October was the October 12<sup>th</sup> AMERICAN AVOCET documented by Bob Andrle and Fran Rew at Hamburg Town Park. Like the Greater White-fronted Geese and Tricolored Heron, American Avocet has only appeared during the fall in recent years. The only previous records of American Avocet after the month of August are on September 9, 2005 and November 1, 1997.

(The Month, continued on page 97)



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

**JAN 5 2007**

\* - Indicates first record for the year.

F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	28	4	Somerset	Pawlicki, D'Anna (BOS)
Snow Goose	6F	2 blue	Alexander	Dart
"	28	3	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
* Brant	28F	89	Yates	Pawlicki, D'Anna (BOS)
Mute Swan	11	2	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Watson
"	21	8	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	21	4	Wilson Harbor	Sharon
"	22	2 ad + 5 juv	Shadigee	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	29F	6	Hamburg	Andrle
American Black Duck	21; 25	15; 14	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
Blue-winged Teal	13	15	Alexander	Beattie
Northern Shoveler	21; 25	<u>110; 112</u>	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
Northern Pintail	11	2	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Watson
"	21; 25	29; 20	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
Green-winged Teal	13 - 19	15 - 30	Alexander	Beattie et al
"	15	22	Dayton	Neveu
Canvasback	14F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Redhead	14F; 15	1; 8	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Ring-necked Duck	7F	5	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	14	5	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	31	127	Hanover	Neveu
"	31	59	Dayton	Neveu
Lesser Scaup	14	55	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	12	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Surf Scoter	2F	2	Barker	Watson
"	14; 15	1; 11	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	16; 20	1; 1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	21	2	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
"	29	8	Athol Springs	Yoerg
White-winged Scoter	2	46	Barker	Watson
"	15	208	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	29	40	Hamburg	Andrle
Black Scoter	15F	13	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Bufflehead	15F	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	21; 25	3; 3	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Beattie
"	29	34	Sheridan	Neveu
Common Goldeneye	29	7	Sheridan	Neveu
Hooded Merganser	31	18	Dayton	Neveu
Common Merganser	16	28	Sheridan	Neveu
"	21	20	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
"	31	100	Dayton	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	3 - 31	12 - 39	Dayton	Neveu
"	18	82	Burtis Bay	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	21; 25	532; 120	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
"	24	11	Allegany SP	Baird
Red-throated Loon	15	20	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Common Loon	2	14	Barker	Watson
"	14	75	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Pied-billed Grebe	3	12	Dayton	Neveu
"	18	60	Burtis Bay	Neveu
Horned Grebe	16; 20	49; 28	Sheridan	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	7F; 15	1; 7	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	21	7	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	2	Buffalo	Potter, D'Anna
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
* <u>Northern Gannet</u>	29	1	Hamburg Town Park	Zebehazy
D.-crested Cormorant	2	40	Barker	Watson
"	4	640	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	11	230	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
American Bittern	6L	1	Farmersville	Chilton
Great Egret	1	1	Alexander	Beattie
"	2; 7	2; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Roberson
"	5	12	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	7	2	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	11L	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
<u>Tricolored Heron</u>	11	1	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Watson
Green Heron	28L	1	Alexander	Beattie
Black-cr. Night-Heron	2	5	Tifft NP	Salembier
Turkey Vulture	23	30	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	29	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Osprey	21L	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Bald Eagle	1; 7	2 ad; 2 ad +2 juv	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg; Roberson
"	2	2 ad	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	11	1 ad	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	12; 14	1 ad; 1 juv	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	15; 22	1 ad + 2 juv; 1 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	16;20;23	2 juv; 2 juv; 1 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	23	1 ad + 1 juv	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	29	2 ad + 2 juv	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	29	2 juv	Hanover	Neveu
"	30	1 ad+1 imm	Ripley	DeFrancisco
"	31	4 ad+1 imm	Westfield	DeFrancisco
Merlin	29	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna
Peregrine Falcon	21	1 imm	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1 imm; 1	Buffalo	D'Anna; Yoerg, Henderson
"	29L	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Potter
Sora	6L	1	Farmersville	Chilton
Common Moorhen	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	22L	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
American Coot	15;22;31	75;161;67	Dayton	Neveu
"	18	663	Burtis Bay	Neveu
"	21	50	Batavia WWTP	Morgante, Beattie et al
Black-bellied Plover	11	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	31	9	Hamburg	Andrle
Amer. Golden-Plover	11	9	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, D'Anna et al
Killdeer	11	50	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* American Avocet	12	1	Hamburg Town Park	Rew, Andrle
Greater Yellowlegs	6	2	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	11	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
"	15	2	Dayton	Neveu
Lesser Yellowlegs	11	1	Bertie (Ont)	Watson
Solitary Sandpiper	14	4	Alexander	Beattie et al
"	15L	4	Bethany	Lazarczyk et al
Sanderling	11	30	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	11	3	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Watson
"	12	2	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
Wilson's Snipe	7	1	Newfane	D'Anna
Red-neck. Phalarope	1L	1	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	29	2; 8	Hamburg Town Park	J Landau; Andrle
<u>Jaeger species</u>	29	5 - 12	Athol Springs	Yoerg et al
* Franklin's Gull	29F	1	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
Little Gull	15F	1	Wilson	Potter et al
"	23	1	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	29	4	Ft. Erie (Ont) & Buffalo	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	4	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	1	Athol Springs	Yoerg et al
Bonaparte's Gull	15	1182	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	29	4	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	2	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
* Sabine's Gull	29F	2	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
"	29F	1	Athol Springs	Yoerg et al
* Black-leg. Kittiwake	29	1	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
"	29	3	Hamburg Town Park	Andrle
"	29	1	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	7	Athol Springs	Yoerg et al
Common Tern	29	1; 5	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante; Andrle
"	29	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	30	1	Niagara Falls	Potter, Rothman
Forster's Tern	15	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Chimney Swift	4	15	Eden	Andrle
"	7	24	Newfane	D'Anna
"	29L	7	Ft. Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Eastern Phoebe	21	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	29	1	Colden	J Landau
Northern Shrike	30F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Blue-headed Vireo	9; 15	3; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	21	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	24	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
Red-eyed Vireo	6L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	9; 15	2; 2	Allegany SP	Baird
Horned Lark	21	6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Purple Martin	6L	2	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Tree Swallow	15; 17	1; 3	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	21	17	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	29L	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna
N. Rough-w. Swallow	29	200	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Potter
Barn Swallow	28L	1 - 2	Carlton	D'Anna (BOS)
Carolina Wren	1 - 31	14 records	BOS region	Several observers
House Wren	1	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	5	2	Times Beach NP	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Winter Wren	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson
"	23	1	Bethany	Beattie
Marsh Wren	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Roberson, Welte
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	21; 25	19; 18	Hanover	Neveu
"	25	5	Goat I.	Roberson
* <u>Northern Wheatear</u>	21; 22	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; K Landau, D'Anna, Lazarczyk et al
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	3	2	Goat I.	Roberson
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	11	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	13L	2	Buffalo	Yoerg
Hermit Thrush	24	17	Allegany SP	Baird
American Robin	24	<u>2000 est</u>	Allegany SP	Baird
American Pipit	13;14;19	13; 40; 4	Alexander	Beattie et al
"	21	6	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	22	40	Somerset	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24	4	Bethany	Beattie
Tennessee Warbler	5	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Orange-cr. Warbler	5	1	Times Beach NP	Salembier
"	15L	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Nashville Warbler	5	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	15	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	21L	1	Lakeside Mem Pk	Andrle
Northern Parula	2	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	7	1	Wilson	Potter
Chestnut-s. Warbler	2	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Magnolia Warbler	2; 5	1; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	3	1	Bethany	Beattie
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	5	1	Goat I.	Roberson
"	6	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
"	6	1	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	1; 3	3; 10	Bethany	Beattie
"	1; 5; 25	75; 48; 11	Goat I.	Roberson
"	11	6	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	14; 15	14; 12	Alexander	Beattie et al
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	9; 15	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	19L	1	Salamanca	Baird
Pine Warbler	<u>21L</u>	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Palm Warbler	5	3	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	15	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Bay-breasted Warbler	2L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Black-and-white Warbler	5L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
American Redstart	5L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	5L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Chipping Sparrow	14 - 31	5 - 8	Alfred	Brooks
"	15; 25	15; 6	Goat I.	Roberson
"	25	30	Lakeside Mem Pk	Andrle
Vesper Sparrow	25	1	Lakeside Mem Pk	Andrle
Fox Sparrow	15	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	21	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Lincoln's Sparrow	20	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	<u>26L</u>	1	Pomfret	Mosher
White-cr. Sparrow	7	3	Iroquois NWR	Roberson, Welte
"	7	3	Bethany	Beattie
"	18	14	Pomfret	Neveu
Dark-eyed Junco	21	42	Hanover	Neveu
"	25	50	Goat I.	Roberson
Lapland Longspur	15	23	Wilson	D'Anna, Ewald
Snow Bunting	25	12	Batavia WWTP	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	27	50	Porter	Sharon
"	28	80	Somerset	D'Anna (BOS)
Red-w. Blackbird	31	<u>600</u>	South Dayton	Neveu
Eastern Meadowlark	12	2	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
Rusty Blackbird	1F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	15	10	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk et al
"	15	11	South Dayton	Neveu
"	21	35	Hanover	Neveu
Brown-head. Cowbird	21	<u>1300</u>	Villenova	Rew

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 272

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month and October Count:** 007

**Total for the year 2006:** 279

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

(The Month, continued from page 92)

Unusually late birds requiring written verification reports were Merlin, Chimney Swift, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Pine Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Willie D'Anna was driving "just south of the Peace Bridge" when he observed first two and then five more Chimney Swifts. Stopping the car and using binoculars he noted the "long arcing wings with slightly pointed wingtips and stubby cigar shaped body with a tail which seemed to be just an extension of the body" of these "fairly uniform"... "dark grayish brown" birds. This is our latest observation of Chimney Swifts surpassing the October 26, 1972 record by Harold Axtell at Crescent Beach. The Lincoln's Sparrow on Harmon Hill Road in Pomfret, Chautauqua County, on October 26 represents our latest fall record of this species (although there is a winter record of December 27, 1979). In his extensive, detailed, and elegant verification report Terry Mosher writes in his introductory two paragraphs: "Like a Song Sparrow in its overall appearance but a bit smaller, more slender, and shorter tailed, this bird was definitely the dapper member of the *Spizella* trio. With several Song Sparrows in the same power-line cut for comparison that morning, its differences from its congener stood out." "Much buffier than the whitish breast of a Song Sparrow, this bird's breast sides and flanks showed dark streaks noticeably finer than those on a Song Sparrow's underparts. Neatly 'cut off' from the rest of the underparts

in Pectoral Sandpiper fashion, the breast looked like a neat band of crisply streaked buff, bordered below by white. In the center of its lower margin was a single breast-spot, smaller and neater than the blotchy central spot on most Song Sparrows' breasts."

The following sources were used in this report:

Beardslee, C.S., and H.D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

DiTommaso D., Suggs, D. et al. *B. O. S. Noteworthy Records Data Base 1964 – 2005*.

Hamilton, Michael. *B.O.S. Annual October Bird Counts 1935-2005*.

National Weather Service. October 2006, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David, et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

# Report of the 71th Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 8, 2006

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

Weather on the count was unremarkable. Fair to partly cloudy skies and seasonable temperatures were the rule. A cold front was situated west of the Great Lakes. An entrenched high pressure area located over Long Island and an intense low pressure area along the Carolina coast together created a northeaster that pummeled the east coast with heavy rain and wind for a week and stalled the eastward movement of the cold front. Fair weather conditions existed in the Great Lakes for several days.

## Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:20 AM EDT      Sunset: 6:45 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Fair	46	38	30.32	SE6	
3:00 am	Fair	45	37	30.33	SE5	
6:00 am	Fair	44	39	30.32	S5	
9:00 am	Fair	51	45	30.33	S3	
Noon	Partly Cloudy	64	50	30.31	SW10	
3:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	67	53	30.23	SW8	
6:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	65	52	30.19	SW7	
9:00 pm	Fair	58	53	30.18	S6	
Midnight	Fair	55	52	30.15	S6	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

### G E E S E - H E R O N S

Canada Goose	15,974		Common Goldeneye	F	33	(4,7)
Mute Swan (adults)	35		Hooded Merganser		15	
<b>Mute Swan (juvenile)</b>	1 (5)		Common Merganser		59	
Wood Duck	279		Red-breasted Merganser		317	
Gadwall	41		Ruddy Duck		306	
American Wigeon	131		unspecified waterfowl		12	(13,22)
American Black Duck	48		Ring-necked Pheasant		20	
Mallard	2,681		Ruffed Grouse		18	
mallard x black	1 (3)		Wild Turkey		195	
Blue-winged Teal	17		<b>Red-throated Loon</b>	F	7	(3,4)
Northern Shoveler	315		Common Loon		698	
Northern Pintail	11		Pied-billed Grebe		202	
Green-winged Teal	409		Horned Grebe		99	
Redhead	F	19	<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>		6	(3,4)
Ring-necked Duck	30	(3,10,16)	Double-crested Cormorant		2,803	
Greater Scaup	84	(3,9)	Great Blue Heron		147	
Lesser Scaup	490		Great Egret		25	
unspecified scaup	17	(5,22)	<b>Tricolored Heron</b>		1	(8)
Surf Scoter	13	(3,4)	Green Heron		9	
White-winged Scoter	79	(3,4,5)	Blk-crowned Night-Heron		2	(9)

### V U L T U R E S - C O O T S

Turkey Vulture	469		Sharp-shinned Hawk		26	
Osprey	3 (9)		Cooper's Hawk		30	
Bald Eagle	15		<b>Northern Goshawk</b>		1	(5)
Northern Harrier	23		Red-shouldered Hawk		6	

Broad-winged Hawk	3	(13,20,28)	Merlin	1	(3)
Red-tailed Hawk	247		Peregrine Falcon	1	(4)
unspecified buteos	1	(13)	Common Moorhen	1	(10)
American Kestrel	38		American Coot	1,293	

#### P L O V E R S - T E R N S

Black-bellied Plover	10	(7,8,16)	Least Sandpiper	35	(7)
American Golden Plover	26	(4)	Pectoral Sandpiper	4	(3,23)
Semipalmated Plover	6	(3,7,13)	Dunlin	9	(3,7)
Killdeer	816		Stilt Sandpiper	6	(7,26)
Greater Yellowlegs	23		Wilson's Snipe	11	
Lesser Yellowlegs	24		American Woodcock	3	(7,12,19)
unspecified yellowlegs	2	(10)	Bonaparte's Gull	481	
Solitary Sandpiper	5	(7,10,25)	Ring-billed Gull	16,062	
Spotted Sandpiper	3	(3,13,21)	Herring Gull	2,351	
Red Knot	2	(7)	Great Black-backed Gull	40	
Sanderling	30	(7)	unspecified gulls	100	(20,22)
Semipalmated Sandpiper	30	(7)	Common Tern	10	(20)

#### P I G E O N S - S W A L L O W S

Rock Pigeon	1,883		Pileated Woodpecker	23	
Mourning Dove	2,065		unspec'd woodpeckers	1	(20)
Eastern Screech-Owl	17		Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	(1,5)
Great Horned Owl	8		Eastern Phoebe	70	
Barred Owl	9		Blue-headed Vireo	8	
Chimney Swift	40	(11)	<b>Warbling Vireo</b>	1	(9)
Belted Kingfisher	65		Red-eyed Vireo	L	7 (6,20,24)
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	(5)	Blue Jay		2,158
Red-bellied Woodpecker	149		American Crow		2,865
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	14		Common Raven		34
Downy Woodpecker	332		Horned Lark		87
Hairy Woodpecker	98		Tree Swallow		64
Northern Flicker	174		N. Rough-winged		
			Swallow		139 (1,2,23)

#### T I T S - W A X W I N G S

Black-capped Chickadee	1,682		Gray-cheeked Thrush	5	(3,10,18)
Tufted Titmouse	132		Swainson's Thrush	6	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	60		Hermit Thrush	56	
White-breasted Nuthatch	307		Wood Thrush	7	(5,13,28)
Brown Creeper	53		American Robin	2,497	
Carolina Wren	45		Gray Catbird		49
House Wren	L	11	Northern Mockingbird		26
Winter Wren	.	32	Brown Thrasher		2 (3,19)
Marsh Wren	3	(18,24)	European Starling		21,382
Golden-crowned Kinglet	351		American Pipit		51
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	403		Cedar Waxwing		1,253
Eastern Bluebird	343				

#### W A R B L E R S

Tennessee Warbler	2	(4)	Cape May Warbler	2	(14,23)
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	(3,8)	Blk-throated Blue Warbler	L	2 (3,20)
Nashville Warbler	5		Yellow-rumped Warbler		696
Northern Parula	L	1 (13)	Blk-thr'ted Green Warbler		2 (3,7)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	L	1 (4)	Pine Warbler		1 (17)

Magnolia Warbler	L	2	(2,20)	Palm Warbler	12
Blackpoll Warbler		23		unspecified warblers	2 (1,13)
Common Yellowthroat		15			

## TOWHEES - SPARROWS

Eastern Towhee		44		Northern Cardinal	408
Chipping Sparrow		542		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1 (13)
Field Sparrow		174		Red-winged Blackbird	9,021
Savannah Sparrow		33		Eastern Meadowlark	92
Fox Sparrow	F	3	(3,17,23)	Rusty Blackbird	438
Song Sparrow		1,022		Common Grackle	7,163
Lincoln's Sparrow		11		Brown-headed Cowbird	1,496
Swamp Sparrow		163		Purple Finch	52
White-throated Sparrow		1,294		House Finch	473
White-crowned Sparrow		353		Pine Siskin	9 (21,27)
Dark-eyed Junco		417		American Goldfinch	900
Lapland Longspur	F	1	(4)	Evening Grosbeak	*
Snow Bunting	F	1	(4)	House Sparrow	3 (27)
unspecified sparrows		128		unspecified birds	1,836
					250 (13)

**Summary Information – Total Species Observed ..... 161**

Total Individual Birds Observed ... **114,066**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 71 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2006

is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

**NOTES: First count record:** Mute Swan juvenile, 1; Tricolored Heron, 1; Warbling Vireo, 1.

**First decade record:** Mute Swan juvenile, 1; Tricolored Heron, 1; Stilt Sandpiper, 6; Warbling Vireo, 1.

**Second decade record:** Mallard x Black Duck hybrid, 1 – first count record was one in 2002; Red-throated Loon, 7 – first decade record was one in 2000; Red Knot, 2 – first decade record was five in 1998; Snow Bunting, 1 – first decade record was one in 2000.

**Third decade record:** Northern Goshawk, 1 – other decade records were one in each in 1998 and 2000; Red-headed Woodpecker, 4 – other decade records were one in 1997 and three in 2000; Northern Parula, 1 – other decade records were one each in 2001 and 2003.

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Mute Swan, 36 (8.8); Green-winged Teal, 409 (4.4); Red-throated Loon, 7 (4.1); Common Loon, 698 (21.2); Double-crested Cormorant, 2803 (9.6); Turkey Vulture (5.5); Cooper's Hawk, 30 (3.3); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 149 (10); Common Raven, 34 (11.3); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 139 (11.6); Tufted Titmouse, 132 (6); Carolina Wren, 45 (9); Blackpoll Warbler, 23 (7.5); Northern Cardinal, 408 (2.3). *Total of 14*

**Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average):** American Black Duck, 48 (10). *Total of 1*

**Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Mute Swan, 36 (2.3); Green-winged Teal, 409 (1.6); Red-breasted Merganser, 317 (2.5); Red-throated Loon, 7 (7); Common Loon, 698 (5.6); Red-necked Grebe, 6 (6); Double-crested Cormorant, 2803 (1.6); Green Heron, 9 (1.8); Turkey Vulture, 469 (1.6); Cooper's Hawk, 30 (1.6); American Coot, 1293 (1.9); Least Sandpiper, 35 (5.8); Belted Kingfisher, 65 (1.6); Red-headed Woodpecker, 4 (4); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 149 (2); Hairy Woodpecker, 98 (1.6); Red-eyed Vireo, 7 (2.3); Blue Jay, 2158 (1.4); Common Raven, 34 (1.9); Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 139 (4); Tufted Titmouse, 132 (1.4); Carolina Wren, 45 (2.5); Eastern Bluebird, 343 (1.4); Cedar Waxwing, 1253 (1.7); Tennessee Warbler, 2 (2); Northern Parula, 1 (3.3); Cape May Warbler, 2 (2); Blackpoll Warbler, 23 (5.8); Field Sparrow, 174 (1.9); Lincoln's Sparrow, 11 (1.8); Northern Cardinal, 408 (1.2). *Total of 31*

**Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** American Black Duck, 48 (50); Mallard, 2681 (70); Northern Pintail, 11 (16); Black-crowned Night-Heron, 2 (33); Northern Harrier, 23 (59); American Kestrel, 38 (63); Great Black-backed Gull, 40 (28); Rock Pigeon, 1883 (82); American Pipit, 51 (20). *Total of 9*

**Noteable (more than double) average increases, last decade vs entire count period (% increase):** Canada Goose (272%), Mallard (209%), Green-winged Teal (275%), Ring-necked Duck (302%), Surf Scoter (241%), White-winged Scoter (279%), Common Merganser (361%), Red-breasted Merganser (232%), Ruddy Duck (431%), Wild Turkey (268%), Common Loon (374%), Double-crested Cormorant (586%), Turkey Vulture (352%), Bald Eagle (394%), Sharp-shinned Hawk (226%), Cooper's Hawk (226%), Merlin (444%), Peregrine Falcon (484%), Mourning Dove, (277%), Eastern Screech-Owl (211%), Red-bellied Woodpecker (493%), Pileated Woodpecker (214%), Common Raven (631%),

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (305%), Tufted Titmouse (419%), Red-breasted Nuthatch (217%), Carolina Wren (359%), Northern Mockingbird (277%), Common Grackle (242%). *Total of 29*

**Noteable (less than 50%) average decreases, last decade vs entire count period (% decrease):** American Black Duck (21%), Canvasback (5%), Redhead (47%), Greater Scaup (27%), Lesser Scaup (32%), Long-tailed Duck (36%), Common Goldeneye (21%), Ring-necked Pheasant (20%), Sanderling (46%), Dunlin (22%), Bonaparte's Gull (33%), Common Tern (3%), Red-headed Woodpecker (20%), Tennessee Warbler (29%), Magnolia Warbler (41%), Cape May Warbler (41%), Bay-breasted Warbler (34%), American Tree Sparrow (49%), Vesper Sparrow (7%), Snow Bunting (33%), Eastern Meadowlark (30%), Pine Siskin (23%), Evening Grosbeak (6%). *Total of 23*

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Maggie Smiley, Katherine Stoltz
3. Wilson, NY: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Brett Ewald, Betsy Potter
4. Middleport, NY: Julie Eberhart, Brendan Klick, **Bill Watson**
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Donald Brasure, Morgan Jones, Jim Rozanski, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Elizabeth Wells
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, George Thomas, Maggie Thomas
7. Lowbanks, ON: Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, Edward Fuchs, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield, Rachel Taylor
8. Fort Erie, ON: Doug Happ, Marcia Jacklin, Richard Kajtoch, Brian N. Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: David Friedrich, Mike Galas, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Eric Labato, Debra Milleville, **Gerry Rising**
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **Don Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte
11. Buffalo, NY: **Roberta Vallone**, Chuck Rosenburg
12. Lancaster, NY: Marion Bee, Christoper Betrus, Kurt Fox, Wayne Gall, **Greg Coniglio**, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, Gail Seamans
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Charles Graney, David Graney, Jack Hartwig, Eileen Hull, Robert Hull, Eugene Kautz, Rita Kautz,, Jane Mason, Max Mason, Don Thurau, Virginia Tiede
14. Hamburg, NY: Bob Andrle, Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Erma Kern, Patty Madigan, Mike Morgante, Sue Saunders, Steve Soule, Barbara Walker
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Dennis Russell
16. Angola, NY: Robert Andrle, Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Jim Pawlicki**, Richard Salembier
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Ron Andrews, **Doris Burton**, Faye Clancy, Dora Lilly, Louise Mills, Sean Phelan, John Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Elaine Smith, James Talbott, Ann Voss, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Dick Barylski, Marcia Barylski, Karen Brisby, Ken Brisby, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Dick Clarke, Sylvia Clark, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Thomas Goetz, Joe Gula, Phil Harlon, Carol Hardenberg, L. Haynes, Dick Miga, Andy Morrison, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Mary Sherman, Jeanine Smith
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Dan Cordosi, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Jesse Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill O'Brien, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Ann Beebe, Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Dan Cordosi, Len DeFrancisco, Ranjit Laha, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**, Kirk Vanstrom
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Dave Anderson, Dan Cordosi, Len DeFrancisco, Julie Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Ruth Lundine, Steve Maggio, Jean Pigman, Bill Seleen, Mary Shaul, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Barbara Henderson, Tom Le Blanc, Peter Yoerg
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Stephen W. Eaton, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Mary Jordan, Bruce Smalley, Robert Smalley, Denton Willet
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russel Allen, **Doris Burton**, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russell Allen, Charlotte Anderson, Dan Babcock, Carol Behn, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Doris Burton, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Tina Cornell, Paul Culley, Karol Doty, Marge Dugan, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, Keegan Fleming, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Norman Ives, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Walter Mason, Kathy McDonald, Mary Ormsby, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Vivian Pitzrick, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Nancy Rouse, Jim Smith, Sharon Bouck Smith, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Linda Travers, Mary Trouslot, Barbara Ware, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**, Katie Wyman

**Total Number of Observers: 227**

## NYSDEC: Short-eared Owl Study and Landowner Incentive Program.

by Chuck Rosenberg

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is undertaking a statewide study of the Short-eared Owl, a state-listed endangered species. The study will monitor their movements, using night-vision scopes and possibly radio-telemetry, to identify habitat characteristics important for over-wintering owls. Data will be compiled in the New York Natural Heritage Program database to establish a baseline for longer-term population studies. The NYSDEC will ultimately apply this information toward developing grassland management practices to benefit over-wintering Short-eared Owls.

The NYSDEC is soliciting assistance from the Buffalo Ornithological Society in identifying active Short-eared Owl wintering sites. Although we are most interested in 2006-2007 records, we would also welcome records dating to 2000. Please send records to Chuck Rosenberg (contact information provided below).

The NYSDEC also recently announced a grassland bird management project, the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). The objective of this program is to protect at-risk grassland bird species by providing financial incentives (\$55-\$60/acre-year) for landowners to maintain grassland habitats relatively free of disturbance during the breeding season (e.g., annual or biennial mowing outside the breeding season). The program is being administered by the NYSDEC, in cooperation with New York Audubon. The second round of LIP application reviews is scheduled for late winter or early spring 2007. Interested landowners can get more information from Chuck Rosenberg or other NYSDEC staff, as well as from the following web site:<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/wildlife/lip/lip.html>

For additional information please contact Chuck Rosenberg, NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation, 270 Michigan Ave., Buffalo, NY 14203-2999, (716) 851-7010, [crosenborg@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:crosenborg@gw.dec.state.ny.us)

## BOS Name Tags

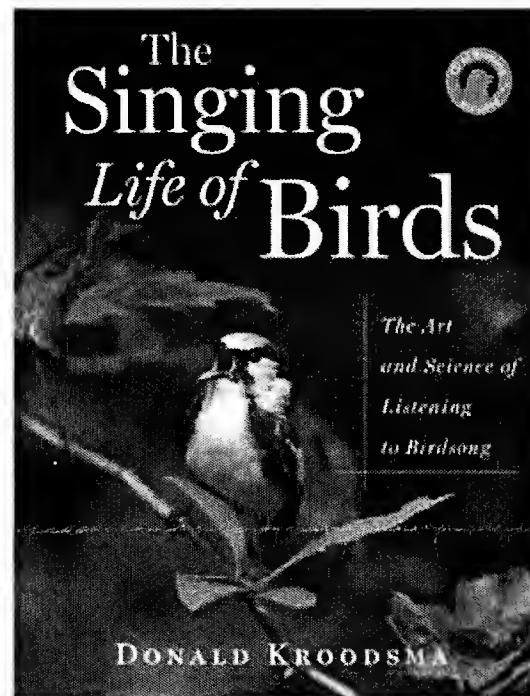
If anyone is interested in ordering a personalized BOS logo name tag, please contact Karen Landau at 716-941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com) by February 1st. These name tags might be especially nice for the BOS hosted 2007 NYSOA annual meeting in Batavia, NY.

## Early 2007 Announcements

The 2007 NYSOA annual meeting hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society will be held in Batavia, NY on October 6-8. The meeting will commence on Friday with an evening reception followed with field trips, presentation of research papers, and a banquet on Saturday and Sunday. Field trips are planned to the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

## 2007 Vaughan Lecture: *The Singing Life of Birds*

by John Grehan



For those of you who like to get your calendar organized well in advance, the 2007 Vaughan lecture is finalized. Donald Kroodsma from Massachusetts will be presenting *The Singing Life of Birds* at 7:00 pm on Wednesday April 25. Please put this important event in your 2007 calendar. Don provided the following description of his talk:

"Come listen to birds as you've never listened before, using what they have to say as a window on their minds, using what they have to say not just to identify them but to identify with them. Hear a song sparrow work through his repertoire, and listen to conversations among crows and jays. See and hear the exquisite beauty in songs of thrushes and how each male uses his songs to best effect. Listen to a babbling baby wren and baby human, realizing how much we have in common with these songbirds. Come and learn to truly listen to our most common birds in ways you never imagined possible."

Further information on Donald Kroodsma can be found on the Vaughan web site at [http://www.sciencebuff.org/vaughan\\_lectures.php](http://www.sciencebuff.org/vaughan_lectures.php). Speakers are now being arranged by the Vaughan Selection Committee through the kind collaboration of Sara Morris, Raymond Vaughan, Tom O'Donnell, Bill Hudson, and John Grehan. If you have any suggestions for future speakers please forward your suggestions to any of the committee members. It is our goal to have future speakers arranged two years in advance.

# Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count – August 20, 2006

by Terry Yonker

Information for the 2006 BOS Shorebird Count is compiled below along with results for the previous 2001-05 surveys.

Weather along the northern shore of Lake Erie for the 2006 count began with light fog in the early morning that eventually lifted, resulting in partly sunny conditions by midday. A trough of low pressure passed through the area during the late morning resulting in lower humidity and strong gusty winds that shifted to the northwest later in the day.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:27 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:10 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRES-SURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Light Fog	70	68	29.79	NW5	Visibility 2 Miles
3:00 am	Light Fog	69	67	29.80	W9	Visibility 2.5 Miles
6:00 am	Light Fog	68	65	29.80	W7	Visibility 2.5 Miles
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	69	63	29.84	W12	
12:00 pm	Partly Sunny	70	60	29.88	W14	Gusty

2006 participants included (bolded names are shoreline section leaders): Section 1: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker; Section 2: **Mike Hamilton**, Doug Happ; Section 3: Sue O'Donnell, **Tom O'Donnell**; Section 4: Jim Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**; Section 5: Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Kayo Roy**; Section 6: **Bob DeLeon**, Donna DeLeon; Section 7: **Gail Seamans**; Section 8: **Bill Watson**; Sections 9 & 10: **Robert Andrlé**, Jim Landau, Frances Rew.

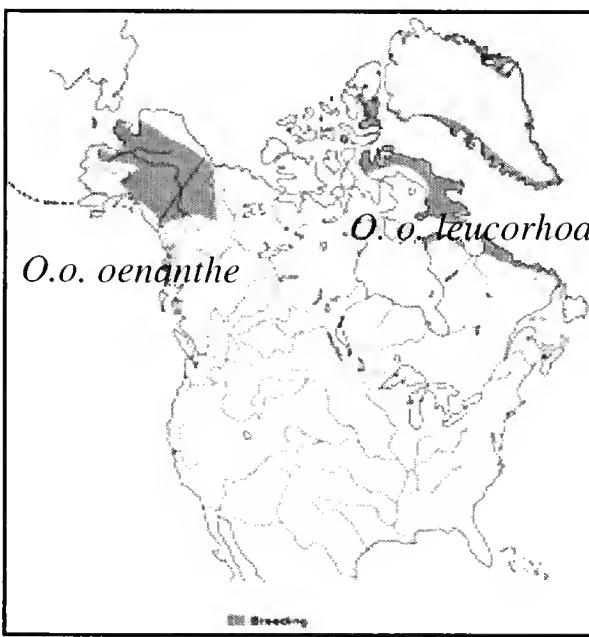
## 2001-06 Lake Erie BOS Shorebird Survey

Species	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Black-bellied Plover	30	58	12	10	1	6
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0
Semipalmated Plover	51	80	116	118	79	127
Killdeer	264	132	265	139	156	44
Greater Yellowlegs	28	23	44	2	7	3
Lesser Yellowlegs	336	204	98	12	95	10
Solitary Sandpiper	6	3	2	1	2	3
Willet	5	2	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	170	115	140	67	103	116
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	1	2	2	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	3	20	14	3	9	3
Red Knot	3	1	0	1	3	1
Sanderling	15	73	25	7	29	86
Semipalmated Sandpiper	215	322	527	229	490	338
Western Sandpiper	0	0	2	4	1	0
Least Sandpiper	294	339	257	173	420	308
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	6	10	0	0	1
Baird's Sandpiper	3	11	0	11	13	4
Pectoral Sandpiper	47	63	15	4	49	15
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	4	0	2	0	0
Stilt Sandpiper	0	2	1	0	4	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	22	29	0	38	12
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	1
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	18	9	9	5	0	12
Total	1500	1491	1568	788	1500	1090

## Northern Wheatear

by Jack Skalicky (from Birds of North America)

The Northern Wheatear described in this month's issue made me realize how little I knew about this species, prompting me to do some research. Below are some information I obtained from <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/BNA/>.



The breeding range of the Northern Wheatear is nearly circumpolar and "extends from northern Europe and Asia south to the Middle East and North Africa, and includes Iceland, Greenland, northeastern Canada, Alaska, and the Yukon. Four races are recognized, 2 in North America: O. o. leucorhoa breeds in Alaska and northwest Canada, and O. o. oenanthe in Greenland and northeast Canada (above)." The bird reported from Batavia WWTP was likely O. o. leucorhoa based on proximity of breeding grounds.

The breeding range of the eastern N. American race, O. o. leucorhoa, is expanding. The "Range of O. o. oenanthe in Alaska and nw. Canada has been quite stable during past 50 yr. [while] O. o. leucorhoa has been extending its breeding range along west coast of Hudson Bay, on Ugava Peninsula, and in ne. Labrador. Sutton and Parmelee suggest that within a century, Northern Wheatear may establish completely circumboreal breeding distribution."

The species migrates from its N. American breeding grounds to Africa. "This species may be the only regularly breeding passerine bird of North America that migrates to wintering grounds in sub-Saharan Africa, crossing either the Atlantic Ocean [O. o. leucorhoa] or the continent of Eurasia [O. o. oenanthe]. Stragglers of both races have been recorded in at least 33 provinces and states of Canada and the United States. N. American breeding grounds have probably been occupied since the last glacial period."

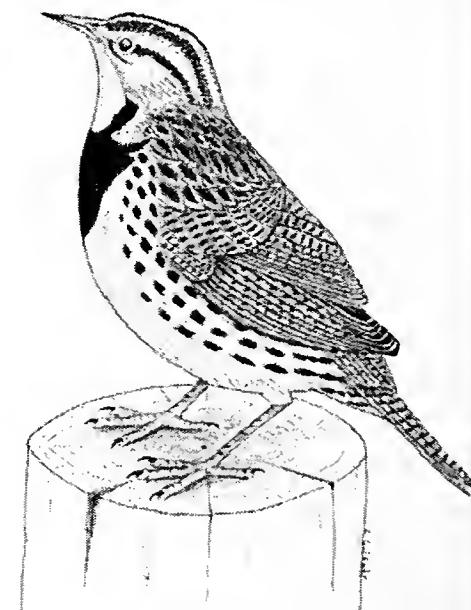
Most relevant to New York birders is the timing of fall migration for this species: "O. o. oenanthe starts to migrate in Aug, with a peak in second half of Aug, when birds move to coast. Individuals occasionally found in w. Alaska in Oct. Pass through ne. Siberia in late Aug, central Russia in late Sept. and early Oct., Persian Gulf states in late Aug.–Nov.; arrives on wintering grounds from late Sep.–Oct. O. o. leucorhoa leaves breeding grounds Aug.–Sep. Most ship records in N. Atlantic are from late Aug. to late Sep. At Isle of Lewis, Scotland, passing migrants noted in early Sep. (probably Icelandic birds); later in Sep., passage noted of what were presumably birds from Greenland; pass through w. Europe from mid-Aug., but mainly in Sep–Oct."

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**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## December – January Calendar & CBCs

- Dec. 23: Sat. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110 garnerlight@hotmail.com).
- Dec. 27: Wed. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-937-5105 or gails@rochester.rr.com).
- Dec. 29: Fri. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637; dannapotter@wzrd.com) for NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892 4433; kayoroy@niagara.com) for Canadian side.
- Dec. 30: Sat. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell (drew.campbell@gm.com; 1-800-539-2329). Meet at McDonald's (corner of Highway 3 and 58 in Port Colborne) at 8 AM.
- Dec. 30: Sat. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (tmodonnell@adelphia.net; 284-5569)
- Jan. 1: Mon. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz (goetz@netsync.net; 716-673-1627) and Paul Farver (716-792-9042).
- Jan. 10: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM.** Buffalo Museum of Science. Richard Joos of the Univ. of Toronto will present, **Little Gulls, a Glimpse at a North American Rarity.**
- Jan. 14: Sun. January Waterfowl Count** of the New York State Ornithological Association. The count period is from Jan 13-21. However, because of the large, shifting flocks seen in our region, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan. 14, weather permitting. New B.O.S. members are encouraged to participate! Contact the Compiler: Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com.
- Jan. 24: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM.** Buffalo Museum of Science. Mike Hamilton will discuss results of the BOS 71st Annual October Count and compare the data with earlier October Counts.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 72, No. 12 December, 2006

### THE MONTH: November

*Gerry Rising*

Steve McLaughlin's National Weather Service summary tells us all we need to know about November: "After such a tumultuous October Mother Nature showed her other side and presented a surprisingly tranquil November. It averaged out very mild, dry and brighter than usual." The data supports his analysis: temperature average  $44.6^{\circ}$ ,  $4^{\circ}$  above normal with an "extraordinarily warm final week"; "after the wettest September-October combo in history," 2.2" precipitation, half the usual with the only snow a forgettable 2" on the 2nd; 34% sunshine "brighter than usual"; and Lake Erie at  $47^{\circ}$  at month's end  $3^{\circ}$  warmer than average.

You might well expect a reverse migration. What we got, as I read the submitted records for migration delays, was a normal November. For example, there was only one warbler reported for the month, a Northern Parula on the 18th. An exception may have been the 31 Northern Rough-winged Swallows recorded upstream from Goat Island on November 19, but numbers of this species have been observed in this same area in at least one recent year. Also late migrants and winter visitors appeared at near normal times. Loons, other waterfowl and Rough-legged Hawks showed up in usual numbers. In fact, Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs arrived were first recorded in October. Evidently the migrants obeyed their genes and paid little attention to the weather.

There were, however, plenty of unexpected birds around to make this November interesting. It was indeed an excep-

tional month for lists with Eurasian Wigeon, Harlequin Duck, Parasitic Jaeger, California Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Razorbill, and Summer Tanager recorded.

Of course, the most exciting of those birds is the Razorbill, to my best memory the only alcid

reported here in many years. Paul Benham tells me that he was one of those who saw the Razorbill found in the same area in January 1985. That bird was first found by Harold Axtel and others on January 2 of that year. Another sighting at Niagara-on-the-Lake on November 27, 1982 was documented by Duncan and McLaughlin. According to Beardslee and Mitchell's *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*, there was at the time that book was written in 1965 a mounted specimen in the Ystad, Sweden School Museum collected in the Niagara region by J. A. Sjögren on November 16, 1906. This is Beardslee and Mitchell's only record and they regarded it only as hypothetical.

First reported on a BOS field trip on November 19, this Razorbill was observed from both Fort Niagara and Nia-



Razorbill photographed by Dominic Sherony (upper) and Jerry Lazarczyk (lower right) on November 28 and 24 respectively, at Old Fort Niagara. Summer Tanager (lower left) photographed by Willie D'Anna on November 14 at his home feeder in Wilson.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Production: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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Long-tailed Ducks, and smallish numbers of all three scoters off Fort Erie. Above the falls, one Eurasian Wigeon was in with about 20 American Wigeon, 5-6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were on the rocks and numbers of Tree and Rough-winged Swallows (and one Barn) are still around. A Black-legged Kittiwake was below the falls. A Parasitic Jaeger was chasing gulls offshore at Fort Niagara for almost a half hour this evening." This excellent report is accompanied by photos of the kittiwake, wigeon and lesser black-back. Not a bad day.

A few Snow Geese were reported, harbingers I sadly suspect of great numbers to come in the future. A California Gull showed up in the Niagara Gorge as in most recent years as did an Eared Grebe at the Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant. (When these individuals die, assuming they are the same birds each year, we may well go without the species for some time.)

The banding efforts of Tom LeBlanc and David Junkin clearly indicate that there are many more saw-whet owls around than most of us realize. Tom captured 40 of these delightful little owls during October and November this

gara-on-the-Lake for the rest of the month and in fact into the following year. Unfortunately, for many stateside observers this is a "toll" bird for we are no longer allowed to observe from the Coast Guard Station and a hefty \$10 single visit, \$30 annual, fee is charged to enter the fort. Dozens of visitors traveled great distances to obtain brief -- or, rarely, extended -- views of this bird fishing the river opening into Lake Ontario, diving to remain out of view for remarkably long periods, and occasionally buzzing upriver a few hundred yards to drift down again.

The river was indeed active as just one report suggests. It is interesting enough to quote Tom Johnson of Cornell almost verbatim: "Mike Harvey, Tim Lenz, Mike Anderson and I birded the Niagara River all day [on the 5th] and had the following highlights: 4100 Bufflehead, 600

year and I understand that Dave has caught at least half that many. Tom's report is accompanied with a delightful photo of one of these birds perched on a pumpkin stem.

Every few years a Summer Tanager shows up here. This time one spent a week or so at the D'Anna property in Wilson where Betsy Potter first found it. Willie's report includes an attractive photo of this handsome but pastel-colored female.

The only winter finch evidence was the report of 2 Pine Siskins in Alfred, hardly a sign of an incursion.

## Revised Edition of the B.O.S. Verification Date Guide Forthcoming

By Mike Morgante

The Buffalo Ornithological Society (B.O.S.) Verification Date Guide ("Date Guide") has historically been revised every six-to-eight years. The last full revision included review of B.O.S. records through December 31, 1997; therefore, it has been more than eight years since a revision was made. In the course of those eight plus years, the status and occurrence of many species have changed. Thus, verification reports were required for many sightings that were no longer unexpected and/or significant. A committee was selected to revise the Date Guide based on a review of records through December 31, 2005. The committee worked through 2006 and the eighth edition of the Date Guide will soon be available.

The committee evaluated all species in need of potential revisions with the intent to reduce the number of reports required while not decreasing the scientific value or credibility of the records. It was a goal of the committee to restore the value of a verification report as indicated on page 5 of the Date Guide, "when a verifying report is called for, the record will be one of such importance that the observer may feel pride in it, and the report should be prepared with the care accorded a document of significant scientific value."

I encourage everyone to carefully read pages 2-6 of the Date Guide closely. These pages are the basis for the Date Guide and these original principles are not outdated, as it is only some dates, terms, and species that required revision. Some key points to remember about the Date Guide from these pages include:

1. Limiting dates do NOT represent when a species is common, but rather, when a verification report is required. (note: We now have the B.O.S. Seasonal Checklist that serves the purpose of indicating when species are common or rare. Too often, the Date Guide is misused for this purpose.) Many species are rare even in their optimum habitat near the limiting dates of the period.

2. "All Year" species are not necessarily found over the whole region at all times.

**3.** The statisticians have the right to ask for a verification report for *any* sighting.

**4.** Reports may be required in general for the following categories: infrequent occurrence, difficult identification, unusual time of year, unusually high numbers, unusual location, or the desire to obtain more information about the species.

One of the biggest challenges facing the committee was reviewing the increased number of earlier arrivals and later departure dates in recent years. Like bird populations, the migration phenology for many species is far from static. There is much consideration given to changes in climate causing these changes. Please see the link <http://www.abc-birds.org/climatechange/> for some interesting and scary projections on the changing ranges for our common bird species. There is also a brief mention of changing migration and breeding patterns of birds due to changing weather in Al Gore's must-see global warming documentary "An Inconvenient Truth". The Date Guide is rigid with arrival and departure dates. Many potential records are being lost from our records database for common species that arrive a few days early or during our increasingly regular "early springs", yet birders don't submit verification reports. This is the time of year when many birds are most easily seen and heard and there is less chance for misidentification, yet, we 'lose' records because the changing climate conditions of today do not match the calendar of yesteryears upon which the Date Guide records are based.

There were numerous changes for this Date Guide, more so than previous revisions. It is important to realize that the dates and terms were revised based on existing records (through December 31, 2005). Changes were not projected to account for what many believe will be continued adjustment in arrival and departure dates based on climate change. Therefore, it is very important to document species found outside of the dates indicated so future revisions will have adequately adjusted dates in these changing times.

A listing of all changes is not provided here because of the number of changes made. Please see the new Date Guide when it comes out for full detail. Here is a summary of species that were adjusted for the eighth edition by general category. Most of the changes made for the eighth edition are slight expansions in dates.

Species that previously required verification reports for all sightings that now have dates and/or exception terms: Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Eared Grebe, Northern Gannet, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Sandhill Crane, Hudsonian Godwit, Parasitic Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Sedge Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, Worm-eating Warbler, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Species that formerly had dates and/or exception terms that now require verification reports for all sightings: Barn Owl.

Species that had dates adjusted (expanded and/or contracted): Snow Goose, Brant, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Harlequin Duck, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter,

Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, Great Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Goshawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, American Woodcock, Red-necked Phalarope, Franklin's Gull, Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, Sabine's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Black Tern, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Chimney Swift, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Swainson's Thrush, American Pipit, Brewster's Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, American Tree Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lapland Longspur, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rusty Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, and Pine Siskin.

Species that had exceptions added or adjusted (not already listed above): Mute Swan, Common Raven, Northern Parula, and White-throated Sparrow.

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## Short-eared Owl: Characteristics of Winter Habitat

by Sarah Mielke

As part of my degree requirements at the University at Buffalo, I am studying Short-eared Owls and their habitat in Western New York, in collaboration with the New York State Department of Education and Conservation (NYSDEC). This study will focus on understanding characteristics of optimal winter habitat for this species, endangered in New York State. Knowledge gained will help guide NYSDEC managers in design of a conservation plan.

Your help is requested regarding the following: (1) location of Short-eared Owl wintering sites in Western New York, (2) the number of individual birds observed at each site, (3) their general behavior, and (4) the time of day observed. Please include as much detail as possible. Chuck Rosenburg of NYSDEC would prefer information pertaining to site locations also be reported directly to him. ALL information can be sent to [sarah.mielke@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.mielke@gmail.com) or 716-622-9506.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	4, 25	1, 3	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	9	18	Dayton	Neveu
"	12 - 25	1 - 2	Dayton	Watson, Landau, Rew
Canada Goose	28	2500	Ellery	DeFrancisco
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	30	1	Somerset	Watson
Brant	12L	7	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Mute Swan	12	1	Dayton	Watson
"	13	12	Wilson	Watson
Tundra Swan	3; 8; 13	31; 28; 75	Beaver I. SP	Sharon; Hess; Sharon
"	5, 17	10, 2	Dayton	Neveu
"	10	60	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Gadwall	9, 22	4, 27	Celeron	Neveu
"	18, 19	24, 12	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	30	24	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
<u>Eurasian Wigeon</u>	5	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Johnson et al
American Wigeon	5	20	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Johnson et al
"	10	18	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	19	12	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	30	74	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
American Black Duck	2; 5; 12	2; 2; 10	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	8	8	Goat I.	Watson
"	10	22	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
Northern Shoveler	10	177	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	26	7	South Pk, Bflo.	Rew
Northern Pintail	10	26	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
Green-winged Teal	2, 5	50, 6	Alexander	Beattie
"	12	28	Dayton	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	23	1	Stockton	Mosher
"	28	3	Tifft NP	Watson
Canvasback	8	205	Niagara Falls	Watson
Redhead	4	6	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	12	9	Dayton	Watson
"	18	10	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	17	<u>700</u>	Dayton	Neveu, Watson
"	10	49	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	12	12	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
Harlequin Duck	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Surf Scoter	9, 18	2, 1	Bird I. Pier	Watson
"	30	16	Somerset	Watson
White-winged Scoter	30	46	Somerset	Watson
Black Scoter	6 - 24	1 - 5	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Mosher
"	18	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
Long-tailed Duck	5	600	Niagara River	Johnson et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	350	Wilson	Watson
"	18	280	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	19	800	Bird I. Pier	Morgante
Bufflehead	5	4100	Niagara River	Johnson et al
"	9; 19	800; 1500	Bird I. Pier	Watson; Morgante
"	18	1800	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Common Goldeneye	4, 15	40, 52	Sheridan	Neveu
Hooded Merganser	5 - 28	234 max	Dayton	Neveu, Watson, Rew
"	7 - 28	227 max	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Common Merganser	4, 19	44, 93	Hanover	Neveu
"	5 - 28	224 max	Dayton	Neveu
"	10	60	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	22	74	Celeron	Neveu
"	23, 29	4, 4	Alfred	Brooks
Red-br. Merganser	5	1000	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13, 30	60, 45	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	5 - 28	95 max	Dayton	Neveu, Rew
"	9	124	Celeron	Neveu
"	10	333	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	10	35	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Red-throated Loon	5	17	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	1	Wilson	Watson
Common Loon	11	17	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
"	13	48	Wilson	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	2, 9, 22	47, 24, <u>147</u>	Celeron	Neveu
Horned Grebe	7	73	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	7, 19	34, 131	Sheridan	Neveu
"	13	20	Wilson	Watson
"	13, 18	33, <u>151</u>	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Red-necked Grebe	6	5	Sheridan	Rew, Walker
"	19	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Eared Grebe</u>	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
D.-crested Cormorant	2	450	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Hess
"	9	30	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	9; 19	515; 15	Buffalo Harbor	Watson; Morgante
"	22	12	Niagara Falls	Watson
"	27	74	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Great Blue Heron	18, 23, 29	1, 1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Black-cr. Night-Heron	22	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson, Salembier et al
"	29	34	Niagara Falls	Watson
Bald Eagle	4	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	7, 15, 20	1 ad, 1 ad, 1 juv	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	9 - 28	2 ad	Dayton	Neveu, Watson et al
"	14	1 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	20	2 ad	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
"	29	2 ad	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	29	1 ad + 1 juv	Ripley	DeFrancisco
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Northern Harrier	25	3	South Dayton	Rew
Rough-legged Hawk	5F	1	South Dayton	DeFrancisco
"	10	1	Sinclairville	DeFrancisco
"	12	1	Villenova	Watson
"	18	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	21	1	Ellicott	DeFrancisco

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24, 28	1 dark	South Dayton	Neveu
"	28	2 light	Charlotte	DeFrancisco
"	30	1 dark	Somerset	Watson
American Coot	9; 19	22; 15	LaSalle Pk, Bflo	Watson; Morgante
"	10	38	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	12	120	Dayton	Watson
"	30	312	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Killdeer	2, 5	10, 9	Alexander	Beattie
Dunlin	5	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	19	13	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Red Phalarope	19F	1	Hanover	Neveu
<u>Parasitic Jaeger</u>	5	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson et al
Little Gull	7	1	Niagara River, Bflo	Hess
"	10	1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg
"	12	2	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	13	1	Lewiston	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	18	1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	19	1	Buffalo Harbor	Morgante
Bonaparte's Gull	18	1500	Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki
* <u>California Gull</u>	13	1	Robt. Moses Power	Watson
"	18	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	18	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	18F	1	Niagara Falls	Potter et al
Lesser Black-b. Gull	5	5	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Johnson et al
"	8; 22; 29	1; 6; 1	Niagara Falls	Watson, Pawlicki
"	22	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Watson
"	29	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	18F	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna, Watson
Sabine's Gull	11, 16L	1, 1	Wilson	D'Anna
Black-leg. Kittiwake	5	1 imm.	Niagara Falls	Johnson et al
"	18	1 ad.	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al, Potter
"	18, 19	1 ad., 1 imm	Niag. Whirlpool	D'Anna et al
"	22	2 imm.	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Salembier, Watson
Common Tern	2, 7, 14	5, 2, 1	Buffalo	Hess
* <u>Razorbill</u>	19	1	Fort Niagara	Watson, Lazarczyk, D'Anna et al
Short-eared Owl	2; 6; 21	18; 22; 2	Porter	Sharon; Sharon; Salembier
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	10/1 to 11/24	40 banded	Allegany SP	LeBlanc et al
Northern Shrike	23	1	Farnham	Neveu
"	27	1	Ellington	DeFrancisco
"	28, 29	1, 1	Stockton	DeFrancisco
Common Raven	20	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	22	1	Andover	Brooks
Horned Lark	4	44	Pomfret	Neveu
"	18	200	Chautauqua	Neveu
Tree Swallow	4	30	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Pawlicki, Salembier
N. Rough-w. Swallow	19L	31	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al
Carolina Wren	1 - 29	1 - 2	BOS territory (incl. Ont)	Several observers
"	28	4	Times Beach NP	Watson
Winter Wren	19	1	Hanover	Neveu
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	4	6	Erie Beach Pk (Ont)	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	18	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	29L	1	Goat I.	Watson
Northern Mockingbird	13	1	Niagara Falls	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18	1	Sherman	Neveu
"	21	1	Porter	Salembier
"	23	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29, 30	1, 1	Alexander	Dart
Northern Parula	<u>18</u>	1	Queenston (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
* <u>Summer Tanager</u>	13 - 21	1	Wilson	D'Anna et al, Watson, Salembier, Lazarczyk
Amer. Tree Sparrow	6F	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	12	55	Villanova	Neveu
Chipping Sparrow	3; 5	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie; Dart
"	4	2	Erie Beach Pk (Ont)	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	12	16	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	12	4	Attica	Beattie, Dart
Fox Sparrow	16	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	19L	1	Times Beach NP	Morgante
White-cr. Sparrow	5	2	Falconer	DeFrancisco
"	12	1	Attica	Beattie, Dart
"	28	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Dark-eyed Junco	12	<u>138</u>	Attica	Beattie, Dart
Lapland Longspur	4; 8	2; 2	Pomfret	Neveu; Mosher
Snow Bunting	5	10	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	6	5	Dunkirk Harbor	Rew, Walker
"	11	4	Alexander	Beattie
"	19	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-w. Blackbird	18	8	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
Eastern Meadowlark	5	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	17	2	South Dayton	Neveu
Rusty Blackbird	10	7	Wilson	D'Anna
Brown-head. Cowbird	10	500	Oakfield	Watson, Lazarczyk
Pine Siskin	30F	2	Alfred	Brooks

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 279

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month and October Count:** 004

**Total for the year 2006:** 283

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

## NYSDEC Press Release

**New York State Bald Eagles Lay, Hatch, and Fledge Record Number of Eggs and Young in New York State during 2006 season** announced New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Denise M. Sheehan, "Although we have become accustomed to increasing yearly records with our growing bald eagle population, the 2006 season established new records and biologists were delighted when they added up the numbers," Commissioner Sheehan said. "The 2006 season was remarkable."

During the first week of May 2006, nest monitoring began, when most eagle eggs had already hatched. In the following two months, it was apparent that significantly

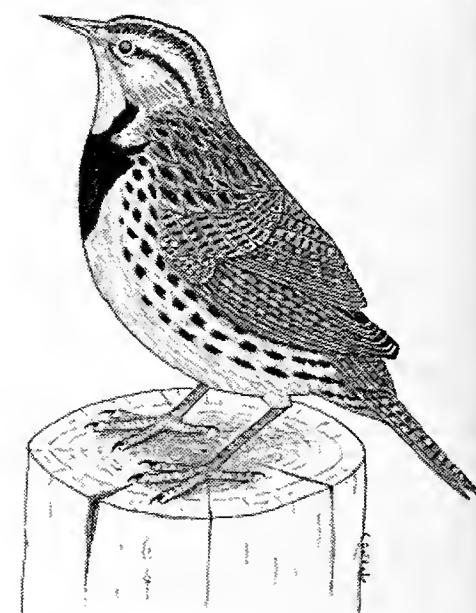
more nests with three eaglets were encountered than ever before. By the time the final tally was completed in August 2006, a remarkable 172 young were counted as fledged from 110 nesting pairs in New York State during the 2006 breeding season. These results mark a 20% increase in nesting pairs and a 54% increase in fledged young over 2005. Overall in 2006, 76% of all eagle pairs that nested in the State were successful in fledging young, with 30% of them producing three eaglets. The long-term average of nests with three eaglets is typically between 5-10% of all productive pairs. Biologists attribute this significant number of eaglets to very favorable mild and dry weather during the late winter and early spring when eagles were laying and hatching eggs, as well as the State and Federal initiatives in place to protect this species.

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Buffalo Museum of Science  
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## January – February Calendar

**BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

- Jan. 24:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM. Buffalo Museum of Science. Mike Hamilton will discuss results of the BOS 71st Annual October Count and compare the data with earlier October Counts.
- Feb. 14:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.
- Feb. 28:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Terry Yonker will present the program "Things That Go Blip in the Night: Nocturnal Bird Migration Along the Buffalo Waterfront".
- Mar. 14:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Scence.
- Mar. 28:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Connie Adams and Lee Harper of the NYSDEC will discuss, "Colonial Waterbirds at Buffalo Harbor."
- Oct. 6-8:** 2007 NYSOA annual meeting hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society will be held in Batavia, NY. (more details to follow).

## BOS Name Tags (second call)

There were many requests for BOS name tags so the announcement is begin reported here and the deadline extended. Karen Landau has extended the time to, hopefully, increase the number ordered, reducing the individual price.

If anyone is interested in ordering a personalized BOS logo name tag, please contact Karen Landau at 716-941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com) by March 1st. These name tags will be especially nice for the BOS hosted 2007 NYSOA annual meeting in Batavia, NY.

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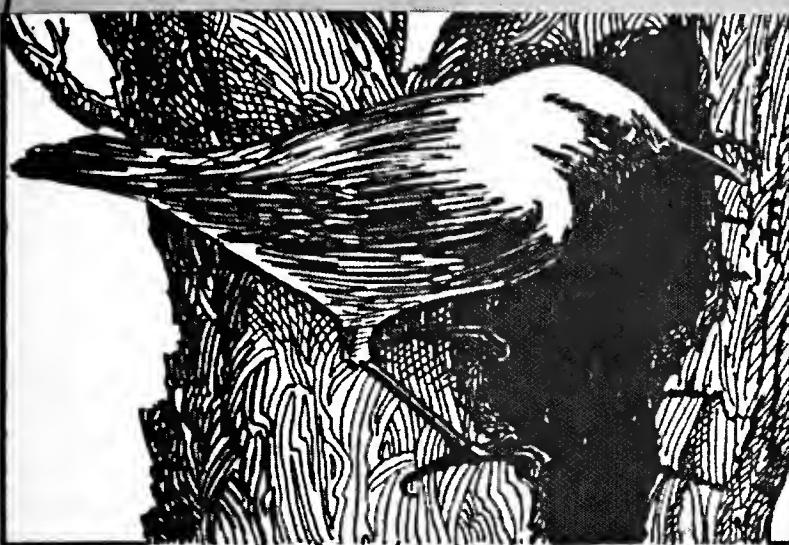
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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 1 January, 2007

### THE MONTH: December

*Mike DeSha*

According to Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service, it was "a memorable December for western New York. The bizarre year of 2006 finished on an appropriate note in the Buffalo area as we experienced almost unprecedented warmth and lack of snow. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> warmest December (37.2°) in the 136 years of weather records here and combined with a very mild November to make the November-December combo the second warmest ever at 40.9°. Only 1931 was warmer. Finally adding this feature to the abnormally warm January and spring, 2006 was the second warmest year of all times. The average temperature of 50.7° was second only to 50.9° in 1998."

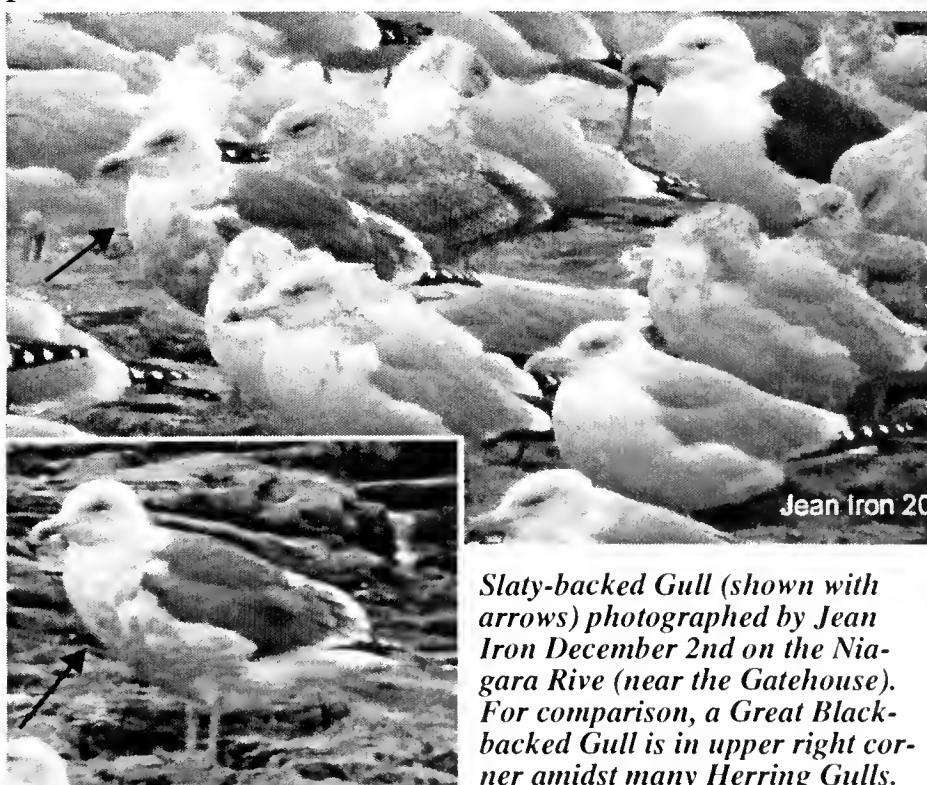
I say, what a difference a year makes! Last year the temperature in the month of December averaged 27.1°, about 2.5° colder than normal; this year we averaged 10° warmer than that. Precipitation this month totaled only 3.16 inches, 0.64 inch less than normal.

McLaughlin continues "The month began on a wild note... with an intense storm moving up to our west with heavy rain... then very strong winds followed... enhanced by funneling up Lake Erie... with gusts of 60 to 70 mph causing more tree damage and power outages during the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Lake Erie experienced a major seiche with water rising ten feet at this end of the lake, reaching the highest levels since 1985. A brief taste of winter followed... which included an interesting lake effect event on the 4<sup>th</sup> with an intense band swinging north of the area and then south... dropping a general 3 to 6 inches. This was about it for winter though. The final 22 days were all warmer than normal and both Christmas and New Years were green and mild.

Of note is the snowfall. The 7.5 inches in December was less than 30% of normal and 7<sup>th</sup> least in the 64 years of airport records. The combined November-December snowfall of

9.6 inches was 3<sup>rd</sup> least ever. This makes the freak October snow of 22.6 inches even more unbelievable. But even including that, the season snowfall finished December below normal."

The "wild note" of the first days of December blew in [“blew in” not to be taken literally, editors note] a mega-rarity on the 2<sup>nd</sup> – a Slaty-backed Gull – for only the second time the species has been seen here in the years that BOS has been keeping records. This individual was seen by a number of observers, though only Willie D’Anna provided a verification for the sightings accompanied by photographs taken by him and Shane Blodgett. It was last reported on the Niagara River on December 13. In his verification D’Anna describes the finding of the gull: "Kevin McGowan and the Cayuga Bird Club discovered this bird and they quickly got the word out about a ‘possible Slaty-backed Gull’ on the breakwall below the control gates. When Betsy, Shane and I arrived less than an hour later, they were trying to relocate it after it had flown but they were still not certain it was a Slaty-backed Gull. Geoff Carpentier refound the bird behind the Gatehouse and we



Slaty-backed Gull (shown with arrows) photographed by Jean Iron December 2nd on the Niagara River (near the Gatehouse). For comparison, a Great Black-backed Gull is in upper right corner amidst many Herring Gulls.

1	<b>The Month</b> <i>Mike DeSha</i>
3	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> <i>Bruce Chilton</i>
6	<b>BOS Calendar</b>

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrlé  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson

Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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the large mirror on the outermost primary. The rump and tail were white with the tail showing thin streaks of blackish." The legs compared to a Herring Gull "were a deeper, richer pink." The combination of features allowed him to rule out other gull species and hybrid combinations.

Slaty-backed Gulls breed on the islands off the Pacific coast of Asia, wandering north and south during the non-breeding season. They are considered casual in Alaska and the Pribilof and Aleutian Islands. The first record of this species east of the Mississippi River occurred in late November through early December on the Niagara River in 1992, (*Bull's Birds of New York State*).

The Razorbill that was first spotted in November continued to feed at the outlet of the Niagara River throughout December. Previous documented occurrences were on January 2, 1985 and November 27, 1987, so this is our first December record for the species. Both William Watson and Willie D'Anna were among those who saw the bird during this time period. Each of their verification reports mentions the lack of characteristic white line on the bill, suggesting that the bird is an immature. In his article on Razorbill in

shortly got word of it from Jim Pawlicki so we headed over, as did Kevin and his group. We studied it at length, comparing it to many Herring Gulls and a few Great Black-backed Gulls, and watched it fully stretch its wings twice, as well as take a short flight, which by that time made me fairly convinced that it was, indeed, a Slaty-backed Gull. ...later in the day, we had nearly side-by-side comparisons with an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull ...which left behind any lingering doubts."

As D'Anna described the gull, it was about the size of a Herring Gull and its back was slightly darker than the Lesser Black-backed Gull with which he compared it. The bird exhibited a "string of pearls" – the effect created by a "row of white spots that help to suggest a regular pattern of white from the white-tipped secondaries and inner primaries to

*Bull's Birds of New York State*, author Michael Usai says that the numbers reported from shores of Long Island have jumped dramatically since 1990. It is thus conceivable that sightings in our area might become more common as well.

Waterfowl and other gulls were also of note, even if not as rare as the two species discussed previously. Lazarczyk, Neveu and Jim and Karen Landau reported a Harlequin Duck in Dunkirk Harbor. Brendan Klick provided a verification of the Barrow's Goldeneye he and Pawlicki found swimming with Common Goldeneyes December 29 on Lake Ontario at Point Breeze. He distinguished it from the others by its crescent-shaped white patch on the face and the row of rectangular white spots on the scapulars that differed from the solid-black back of the Common Goldeneyes. This is only the 2<sup>nd</sup> December record of Barrow's Goldeneye in BOS archives since 1980. Beattie found nine Green-winged Teal on December 8 in Bethany. William Watson, Richard Salembier, and Jim Pawlicki among others saw a California Gull from the Adam Beck overlook on the Niagara River on December 30. Willie D'Anna and several other observers saw this bird in the same area the next day. A Black-legged Kittiwake was also seen on each day.

As reported by Peter Yoerg, up to four Merlins were seen from December 23 to December 29 at the traditional roosting site on the South Campus of the University of Buffalo. This is the ninth winter that Yoerg has seen at least one Merlin at this location. On December 10, Tim Baird, Tom LeBlanc and I saw a Merlin in the Town of Leon in Cattaraugus County. We were looking for Short-eared Owls in the townships of Cattaraugus County south of Dayton. In late afternoon sun, Baird spotted an immature Cooper's Hawk in a farmyard tree. There were numerous European Starlings and House Sparrows as well. After we stopped, the hawk flushed and Tim saw the Merlin chasing the hawk. The Merlin broke off the chase and alit at the top of a tree, where we all got a good view of it. To our knowledge, this is the latest in the year that a Merlin has been seen in Cattaraugus County. William Watson has noted that in the BOS archives, the previous late record for Merlin in Cattaraugus County was an individual seen in Dayton on September 14, 1997 by Sweigert, Rew and Watson, (*Watson, private communication*.) Tom LeBlanc got a decent photograph of the bird in flight, which was included in the verification report.

Willie D'Anna saw what was probably the same Ruby-crowned Kinglet on December 17 and 31 along the Niagara River. Salembier found a Ruby-crowned Kinglet at Times Beach Nature Preserve on December 28. Betsy Potter and Willie d'Anna attracted a Fox Sparrow to their feeders December 4-7 and Potter saw a lingering Hermit Thrush on the 29<sup>th</sup> at Four Mile Creek State Park. Salambier reported the only Purple Finch on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Others may have been seen on CBC's not reported here. While Purple Finch is not considered an irruption species in our area, it should be noted that Ron Pittaway had forecasted earlier that winter finches are not likely to move into our area this winter due to the massive seed crops farther north.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

A.F. M.

MAR 1 2007

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	30	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	31	2	Dayton	Neveu
Tundra Swan	6	20	Dayton	Neveu
"	7-21	131	Grand I.	Lazarczyk et al
"	14; 21	180	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	14	17	Celeron	Neveu
"	14	59	North Harmony	Neveu
"	15	50	Buckhorn I. SP	D'Anna
"	17	145	Niagara River	Watson
Gadwall	6	3	Dayton	Neveu
"	14	12	Celeron	Neveu
"	17	24	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	28	2	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
American Black Duck	16	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	16	22	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	23	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	31	48	Dayton	Neveu
Northern Pintail	16	7	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	16	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	30	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	31	20	Dayton	Neveu
Green-winged Teal	8	9	Bethany	Beattie
Redhead	14	1	Barcelona Harbor	Neveu
"	17	33	Niagara River	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	11; 30	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	13	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	19	50	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Harlequin Duck	10;16;23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk et al, Neveu; J&K Landau
Surf Scoter	14	1	Barcelona Harbor	Neveu
White-winged Scoter	9; 14	26; 11	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	17	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Black Scoter	14	1	Barcelona Harbor	Neveu
Bufflehead	9; 14	140; 100	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Beattie, Lazarczyk
"	17	737	Bird I. Pier	Landau, Chilton
* <u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	29	1 m	Pt. Breeze	Klick
Hooded Merganser	14; 21	512; 325	Celeron	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	6; 15; 31	15; 15; 7	Dayton	Neveu
"	11 - 30	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	16	32	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	28	3	La Salle Pk, Bflo	Pawlicki, Salembier
Common Loon	14; 21	2; 1	Niagara River	Beattie, Lazarczyk; Chilton, Landau
"	29	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Great Blue Heron	10 - 23	5 max	Hanover	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	11	16	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bald Eagle	3	1	Grand I.	Morgante
"	3	1 subad	Allegany SP	Baird
"	6; 15; 31	2 ad; 1ad,1 juv; 2ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	10;13;16	2 ad; 1 ad; 2 ad	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	11; 23	1 juv; 1 ad	Sheridan	Neveu
"	11;23;28	4; 3; 13	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	14	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Northern Harrier	31	7	South Dayton	Neveu
Red-tailed Hawk	20	1 (white)	Brant	Neveu
Rough-legged Hawk	10	1	Conewango	DeSha
"	31	7	South Dayton	Neveu
Merlin	<u>10</u>	1	Leon	DeSha, Baird
"	<u>23 - 29</u>	1 - 4	UB south campus	Yoerg
Purple Sandpiper	3; 10; 17	2; 2; 3	Niagara Falls	Yoerg
Little Gull	15	1	Buffalo	D'Anna
Bonaparte's Gull	7 - 21	900 - 7000	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	17	3585	Niagara River	Watson
<u>California Gull</u>	30	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson et al
"	31	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	3 - 31	1 - 2	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	31	6	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	31	1	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Lesser Black-b. Gull	3 - 17	1 - 2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg
"	31	8	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
* <u>Slaty-backed Gull</u>	2, 3	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	31	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
Black-leg. Kittiwake	30	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	31	1 juv	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Potter et al
<u>Razorbill</u>	10;19	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna; Watson et al
Short-eared Owl	5	10	Porter	Sharon
"	15	1	Porter	D'Anna
Nor. Saw-whet Owl	18	1	Ellery	Lazarczyk
Northern Shrike	10	1	Conewango	DeSha, Baird et al
"	16	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	16	1	Brant	Neveu
"	27	1	Pendleton Center	D'Anna
"	29	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	31	1	Villenova	Neveu
Common Raven	3; 23	2; 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	6	1	Mansfield	Lazarczyk
Carolina Wren	10; 16	1; 1	Hanover	Neveu
"	13; 30	1; 1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	17	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	29	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	30	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Winter Wren	16	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	23	1	Newfane	D'Anna
"	29	1	Porter	D'Anna
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	<u>17; 31</u>	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna; D'Anna et al
"	<u>28</u>	1	Times Beach NP	Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	11	4	Pomfret	Neveu
"	15	4	South Dayton	Neveu
"	16	1	Colden	J Landau

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16	10	Allegany	Baird
"	19; 31	4; 5	Hanover	Neveu
"	30	4	Sheridan	Neveu
Hermit Thrush	29	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter
American Robin	17	23	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Northern Mockingbird	16; 28	1; 1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	17	1	Tonawanda	Chilton, Landau
"	30	1	Bethany	Beattie
Yellow-r. Warbler	29	3	Porter	Potter
Amer. Tree Sparrow	15; 31	45; 92	South Dayton	Neveu
Fox Sparrow	<u>4 - 7</u>	1	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
White-thr. Sparrow	28	4	Times Beach NP	Salembier, Pawlicki
White-cr. Sparrow	1 - 30	1 - 3	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	8	Porter	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	10	3	Hanover	Neveu
"	16	146	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-w. Blackbird	29	9	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Common Grackle	21	1	Tonawanda	Chilton
Brown-head. Cowbird	28	2	Bethany	Beattie
Purple Finch	16	1	Tifft NP	Salembier

### ADDENDA

#### **2005**

Long-eared Owl	12/4, 17, 23	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
N. Saw-whet Owl	12/30	1	Amherst SP	C & R Salembier
Winter Wren	12/28, 30, 31	2, 1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Salembier, Pawlicki
E. Bluebird	12/11	2	Porter	Salembier, Pawlicki

#### **2006**

<u>Ross's Goose</u>	2/22	1	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Roy
Harlequin Duck	<u>10/15</u>	1	Dunkirk Harbor	M & T Lenz
N. Goshawk	6/19	2	<u>Carroll</u>	DeFrancisco
Red-necked Phalarope	9/19	1	Pt. Abino (Ont)	Wells
"	10/1	1	Batavia	Pawlicki
<u>Boreal Owl</u>	4/16	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Roy, Lucas
* <u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	7/13	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Roy et al
<u>Sage Thrasher</u>	2/24; 25	1	Welland (Ont)	Roy et al; Egressy
<u>Bohemian Waxwing</u>	5/21	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Partridge

#### ERRATA/2006

Change: Orchard Oriole	May Count 2006	<b>2 to 7</b>	<b>Sec 20 to Sec 4,20</b>
Erratum: American Tree Sparrow	11/12	16; 4	Alexander; Attica

Beattie

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: **283**

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month and addendum: **003**

**Total for the year 2006:** **286**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

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## February – March Calendar

- BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>
- The logo is circular with a thin black border. Inside, the word "BUFFALO" is at the top and "ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY" is at the bottom, both in a serif font. In the center is a stylized graphic of a bird in flight, with its wings spread wide; the body is white and the wings and tail are dark.
- Feb. 28: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Terry Yonker will present, **Things That Go Blip in the Night: Nocturnal Bird Migration Along the Buffalo Waterfront.**
- Mar. 1 - May 15: Hamburg Hawk Watch** will officially begin counting on March 1 and continue through May 15. The watch is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park, just inside the Camp Rd. entrance, between Routes 5 and 20. Stop by between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and see what's migrating! Contact Jim Landau, 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com
- Mar. 4: Sunday. BOS Nature Sanctuary Field Trip.** Meet at the sanctuary (between 3012 and 3060 Love Road on Grand Island) at 9:00 AM. A picnic lunch at Beaver Island S.P. follows. Interested folks can continue as a group to the West River and Buckhorn Island for an afternoon trip. Leader: Jerry Lazarczyk (716-773-7452 or lazarcg1@netzero.com).
- Mar. 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Scence. Bob DeLeon will present, **BOS April, May & October Counts: 70 Years, 20 Million Birds and Still Counting.**
- Mar. 18: Sunday. Erie County Owl Trip.** Meet at 1:00 PM at the Reinstein Woods Preserve at 77 Honorine Dr. in Depew (off Como Park Blvd. between Transit Rd. and Union Rd.) Leader: Chuck Rosenburg (683-8386, crosenburg@verizon.net, cell phone: 622-3278).
- Mar. 28: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Connie Adams and Lee Harper of the NYSDEC will present, **Colonial Waterbirds at Buffalo Harbor.**
- Oct. 6-8: 2007 NYSOA annual meeting hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society** will be held in Batavia, NY. (more details to follow).

Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

## BOS Name Tags (third and final call)

If anyone is interested in ordering a personalized BOS logo name tag, please contact Karen Landau at 716-941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com by March 1st. These name tags will be especially nice for the BOS hosted 2007 NYSOA meeting in Batavia, NY.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 2 February, 2007

### THE MONTH: January

*Jerry Lazarczyk*

According to Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service, "January was a tale of two weather regimes. Western New Yorkers were wondering if winter would ever arrive this year. The near record warmth of November and December continued right on into January and the first two weeks were amongst the warmest ever, averaging some 13 degrees warmer than normal and were virtually snowless. Crocuses were even breaking ground. Then in one of the most dramatic pattern changes in recent years winter set in at mid month and tightened its grip during the last two weeks of the month. The lake effect machine was very active as the lakes were unusually warm and primed for action once the cold air arrived. The winds were generally west or northwest though, so although a bit of snow fell every day from the 13<sup>th</sup> on, the Buffalo area was spared any significant snowfall. The South Towns were not so lucky..."

The lack of a freeze up early in the month left most birds dispersed throughout our Region. Places that were "gimme's" for waterfowl such as Dunkirk Harbor just did not have much, whereas places that were normally frozen over held waterfowl. Birds that were normally concentrated remained dispersed.

McLaughlin continues "January's wintry second half put a dent in the excess temperatures during the first two weeks, but the month still averaged some 4.4 degrees above normal at 28.9 degrees. A few record high minimums were set during the first week. The month's first half averaged 13 degrees too warm, its second half 4 degrees on the cold side.

Precipitation was fairly heavy for January, falling as rain during the first half and snow of the lake effect variety during the second. Weather events of interest included the freezing rain early on the 15<sup>th</sup>

which caused some power outages across Niagara County while the immediate Buffalo area just barely escaped as temperatures edged slightly above freezing for a time. Three to six inches of snow fell across the metropolitan area on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with close calls on both the 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> as intense lake bands lifted up across the South Towns and dissipated just before reaching the city. Monthly snowfall was 15.5 inches, over ten inches below normal. The greatest depth was just 3 inches. Season snowfall is up to 47.7 inches, 15 inches shy of the norm. But this is deceiving as over 22 inches fell in the October storm. Since November 3 total snowfall has been just 22.9 inches versus a normal of 62 inches.

January was a gloomy month with just 22 per cent of the possible sunshine being received. Just three days were mostly sunny. Lake Erie was at record warm levels much of the month, as late as the 16<sup>th</sup> when it was still at 41 degrees. But the late month chill knocked it down to 35 by month's end and some shore ice was forming. Winter finally arrived in mid January but it was not too hard to take."



*Little Gull photographed by Jim Pawlicki January 11th on the Niagara River, Buffalo NY.*

7	<b>The Month</b> <i>Jerry Lazarczyk</i>
10	<b>Noteworthy Records</b> <i>Bruce Chilton</i>
13	<b>Jan. Waterfowl Count</b> <i>Jim Landau</i>
14	<b>New BOS species: Part I</b> <i>Jim Pawlicki</i>
15	<b>BOS Calendar</b>

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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albeit at the expense of a new \$10 fee to enter Fort Niagara.

Only two January BOS records existed for a Greater White-fronted Goose. On January 15, 1982, Wendling found two White-fronted Geese in Williamsville, NY. On January 1, 2004, Watson documented one at the Iroquois NWR. Therefore an exceptional find was made when one was found at the Tonawanda WMA on January 7th.

Sightings of Snow Geese west of an imaginary north-south line between the Finger Lakes and the BOS region are uncommon. This year, 400 of these geese were recorded at the Iroquois NWR on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Previously, the highest January number of Snow Geese in our region was 31. The BOS database contains only one January instance of a Canada Goose find exceeding the 3400 that Bill Watson found at the Iroquois NWR on January 18<sup>th</sup>. That was by Morse in January of 1980, also at the Iroquois NWR.

Due to the recent split of the Cackling Goose from Canada Goose, only one January record is present in the BOS database. Verification reports are now required for the species after January 11<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> through October 12th.

The weather assault that finally arrived drove birds towards normal January environs. As smaller ponds and creeks began to freeze and the snow cover arrived, birds were forced to migrate or to concentrate in unfrozen areas or areas where food and shelter was not snow covered. For the record, average precipitation was 4.77 inches with a deviation of 1.61 inches. The mean temperature was 28.9 degrees with a deviation of 4.4 degrees.

The story of the month, perhaps the winter, was the Razorbill, last seen by Willie D'Anna and others on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Razorbill was originally spotted by a joint BOS-RBA field trip in November 2006. The Razorbill has occurred only twice in BOS records, November 27, 1982 and January 2, 1985, therefore exceptional. This recent Razorbill was a great bird to behold and we appreciated its long run

Tim Baird found a Trumpeter Swan in a small area of open water on the otherwise frozen Allegheny Reservoir. The sighting was only the 2<sup>nd</sup> BOS January record (Fran Rew and others found two Trumpeters in Dunkirk Harbor on January 31<sup>st</sup> of 1997).

Only eight BOS January records for over 100 Tundra Swans exist and all are from 1999 and later. Debbie Sharon found 125 on January 14<sup>th</sup> and Bill Burch and myself found 176 on January 18<sup>th</sup>. That larger number was exceeded only once, by Bill Burch on January 17, 2002. The data indicates January Tundra Swans are increasing. I can remember years ago when it was a treat to find a small flock of Tundra Swans just once during the winter. Now the swan population is a fixture over winter in the upper Niagara River.

Historical records dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century abound with stories of the swans. Many documents detail catastrophic events of large flocks going over the falls. Flocks of other waterfowl go over as well. These catastrophic events usually occur at night, during periods of fog or heavy storms. This was not necessarily an unusual event, one document recounts that the soldiers of Fort Niagara were sustained over winter on the carcasses of waterfowl recovered from the river that presumably perished in this manner.

Only two previous BOS records of Canvasback numbers over 10,000 occur. One record was of 10,350 found by Bill Burch off Grand Island on January 15, 2003. On October 31, 1981, Art Schaeffner found 15000 at Niagara Falls ON. Bill Burch and I found at least 12500 between Grand Island and Motor Island on January 21, 2007. Beardslee and Mitchell called the Canvasback uncommon in the early 1900's, and they mention that its growth has been phenomenal, first reaching 10,000 birds on a December 22, 1952 Christmas count to a maximum of ~15,000 birds in 1958.

Bill Watson estimated 1400 Common Goldeneye on January 11, 2007 from Ft. Erie ON. Only four BOS records exceed his count of 1400, and all four records were over 2000 birds. Beardslee & Mitchell said "During the thirties and early forties the Common Goldeneye was usually the most numerous winter duck in this region. Even now (the 1960's) it has the most widespread distribution, but the compact flocks of Canvasbacks have exceeded it in numbers in most recent years (the 1960's)". This is similarly true today. But the Common Goldeneye was counted in the 2000 to 5000 range in some years over the thirties, forties and fifties.

David Neveu estimated 6000 Common Mergansers in Dunkirk Harbor on January 27, 2007. That number was exceeded only four times in BOS records. According to Beardslee & Mitchell, the Common Merganser, which is the largest of our ducks, is among the most common of our wintering waterfowl, and numbers are dependent on food supplies. The largest count was 15,192 recorded in mid-January 1960 (over twice the previous high count) at a time when the Emerald Shiner was unusually abundant in the Niagara River.

David Neveu reported a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk in Farnham on January 15, 2007. This is probably the same bird reported in the Evangola area for the past few years.

January BOS Merlin records continue to accumulate so it is with tongue in cheek that it continues to be a very rare sighting. On January 12<sup>th</sup> three were seen, on January 17<sup>th</sup> two were seen and on January 18<sup>th</sup> three were seen on the UB South Campus. This corresponds with records of multiple (and single) sightings per day over recent years on the UB South campus.

Only two January BOS records exist for an American Woodcock: Morgante in 1999 at Ft. Erie and Galas in 2000 at Ft. Niagara. So the January 1<sup>st</sup> find by Terry Mosher in Pomfret is exceptional as well. Terry said he did not actually see the bird in the pre-dawn darkness. Terry went on to say that "sound that I had heard on perhaps 300 occasions broke the morning stillness: the twitter of an American Woodcock's whistling wings". Terry went on with a precise yet extremely well written description of the sounds that he heard and the events he presumed were occurring.

A Bonaparte's Gull count of at least 3000 at Beaver Island State Park on January 1<sup>st</sup> by me pales in comparison to the 15,000 seen by the Suggs on the 14<sup>th</sup> in the Niagara River at Buffalo. However, the Suggs' count is tied for second with a count of 15000 by Cohen et al on January 19, 1991. The highest count according to BOS records is 16,200 on January 29, 1995 by the late Gorden Bellerby. Mr. Bellerby "owns" most of the highest count records for BOS.

Willie D'Anna and others saw the very rare California Gull twice in January. There are only 18 BOS records of the California Gull, none before the first record in 1993 by Gordon Bellerby. The sharp-eyed Willie D'Anna "owns" most of the California Gull records.

Bill Watson counted 102 American Robins on January 11<sup>th</sup> in Tonawanda and Doug Beattie had 125 in Bethany on the 15<sup>th</sup>. There are some pretty impressive January numbers in the BOS records topped by 2,397 by Klick and Harris on January 12 of 2003 at the Iroquois NWR and Suzan and Tom O'Donnell had 1000 on January 17, 1999, also at Iroquois for 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

A sighting by Willie D'Anna of 200 American Tree Sparrows on January 13<sup>th</sup> on the Lake Ontario plains was exceeded by only 3 BOS records. The Klabundees', former caretakers of the BOS Wildlife Sanctuary, had 500 on February 11<sup>th</sup> of 1968 in Wilson while Mealy had 500 in Ellicott in March of 1964. Third place of 250 went to Willie D'Anna on January 16<sup>th</sup> of 1993 on the Lake Ontario plains. Historical records show much higher counts but with only one record above 1,000, none in January.

Only six January BOS records existed before the very rare Savannah Sparrow that Willie D'Anna noted on January 13<sup>th</sup> in Newfane. Historically, the Savannah Sparrow was considered by Beardslee & Mitchell as "one of the least hardy of the sparrows which have been known to summer here".

Only three previous January BOS Red-winged Blackbird records for greater than 100 individuals exist. Willie D'Anna recorded 115 in Newfane and 150 in Hartland, both on January 13, 2007. Endres had 475 Red-winged Blackbirds at the Iroquois NWR on January 31, 1985. Morse had 200 in Alabama NY on January 7, 1980. Fran Rew had 165 in Kent Switch in Cherry Creek.

Surprising numbers and occasions of January Brown-headed Cowbird with flocks of over 100 individuals occur. Willie D'Anna got 150 on January 13, 2007. But BOS records demonstrate eleven instances of over 100 with a high of 500 by McKale on January 31, 1981.

BOS records, supplied to me on request from the BOS database by David Suggs, cover basically the period from 1965 to roughly present day. Historical records covering pre-1965 come mostly from Beardslee and Mitchell's Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region.

The following sources were used in this report:

Beardslee, C.S. and Mitchell, H.D. 1965, Birds of the Niagara Frontier, Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of the Natural Sciences (Buffalo Museum of Science) Volume 22.

DiTommaso D., Suggs D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database 1964-2005.

National Weather Service, January 2007, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David, et al. Seasonal Checklist of the Birds: Niagara Frontier Region. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

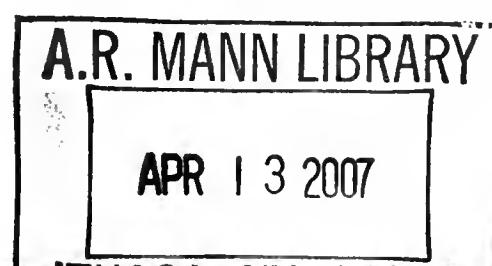
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## Reminder: 2007 Vaughan Lecture: The Singing Life of Birds

by John Grehan

Donald Kroodsma from Massachusetts will be presenting *The Singing Life of Birds* at 7:00 pm on Wednesday April 25 for the Vaughan Lecture (see Calendar). Don provided the following description of his talk:

"Come listen to birds as you've never listened before, using what they have to say as a window on their minds, using what they have to say not just to identify them but to identify with them. Hear a song sparrow work through his repertoire, and listen to conversations among crows and jays. See and hear the exquisite beauty in songs of thrushes and how each male uses his songs to best effect. Listen to a babbling baby wren and baby human, realizing how much we have in common with these songbirds. Come and learn to truly listen to our most common birds in ways you never imagined possible." Further information on Donald Kroodsma can be found on the Vaughan web site at [http://www.sciencebuff.org/vaughan\\_lectures.php](http://www.sciencebuff.org/vaughan_lectures.php).



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Gr. White-fr. Goose</u>	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
Snow Goose	6	1 blue	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	7	<u>400</u> wh, 1 bl	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	2 white	Dayton	Neveu
Canada Goose	18	<u>3400</u>	Iroquois NWR	Watson
<u>Cackling Goose</u>	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
"	7	4	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	18	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Mute Swan	3	2	Pt. Breeze	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7	4	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	7	<u>30</u>	Pt. Breeze	S&T O'Donnell
<u>Trumpeter Swan</u>	28	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Tundra Swan	3, 8, 18	21, 31, 4	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	7	5	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	13	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	11	47	Buffalo	Watson
"	14; 18	<u>125; 174</u>	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon; Lazarczyk, Burch
"	23	11	Tonawanda	Watson
Gadwall	7	10	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	8	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	11	28	Niagara Falls, NY	Watson
"	11	9	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
Northern Shoveler	18	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Green-winged Teal	1	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	J&K Landau, Rew
"	17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Canvasback	21	<u>12500</u>	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk, Burch
Redhead	11	9	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	27	36	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ring-necked Duck	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	27	18	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	9; 27	2; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Harlequin Duck	27	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Pawlicki
White-winged Scoter	3	18	Somerset	Watson
"	3	6	Pt. Breeze	Watson
Long-tailed Duck	11	140	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	14	1	Conewango	Baird et al
Bufflehead	11	<u>800</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Common Goldeneye	11	<u>1400</u>	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
Hooded Merganser	1 - 18	15 repts	BOS area (incl Ont)	Lazarczyk et al
"	7	48	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Common Merganser	27	<u>6000</u>	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Ruddy Duck	5	5	La Salle Pk, Bflo.	Watson
Ruddy Duck	8 - 20	1 - 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18	5	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-throated Loon	3	2	Somerset	Watson, Pawlicki
"	7	2	Golden Hill SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Loon	27	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Pied-billed Grebe	27	14	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	14	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
Horned Grebe	3	17	Somerset	Watson
"	6, 9	2, 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
D.-crested Cormorant	1	1	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Great Blue Heron	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	7	3	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	7	1	South Dayton	Neveu
"	15	1	Arcade	J&K Landau
"	18	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	27	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Bald Eagle	1	2 imm	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
"	1	1 ad	South Dayton	Neveu
"	5	1 ad	Hanover	Neveu
"	6, 7, 14	1 juv, 2 ad, 2 ad	Dayton	Neveu
"	8; 18	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Watson et al; Watson
"	9	1 ad + 2 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	9, 17, 20	1 ad, 1 ad + 2 juv, 1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	14	1 imm	Allegany Village	Baird et al
"	17	2 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	17	2 ad	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	17	1 ad	Celeron	Neveu
"	27	1 ad	Strawberry I.	D'Anna, Pawlicki
Red-tailed Hawk	15	<u>1 white</u>	Farnham	Neveu
Rough-legged Hawk	1	2	Villenova	Neveu
"	1,6,7,20	4,8,2,10	South Dayton	Neveu
"	7	4	South Dayton	J&K Landau
"	14	1	Conewango	Baird et al
"	18	1	Alabama	Watson
"	28	1	Dayton	DeSha
Merlin	<u>12,17,18</u>	3, 2, 3	UB south campus	Yoerg
American Coot	2	9	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	14	1	Allegany Village	Baird et al
American Coot	27	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Purple Sandpiper	28	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg
American Woodcock	1	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Little Gull	11	1	Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	1	Beaver I. SP	D&D Suggs
"	21	1	Queenston	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	2 - 3	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	1	<u>3000</u>	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	14	<u>15000</u>	Niagara River, Bflo	D&D Suggs
<u>California Gull</u>	6, 14	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Iceland Gull	21, 28	5, 3 ad	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Yoerg et al
"	21	6	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al
"	28	4	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Yoerg
Lesser Black-b. Gull	19	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Glaucous Gull	14	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	21	1	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Yoerg et al
"	21; 28	5; 1-2(imm)	Niagara Falls	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
Razorbill	6	1	Niag.-on-the-Lake (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Short-eared Owl	1	3	Wilson	J&K Landau et al
"	21	4	Yates	Sharon
"	14	4	Shelby	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Grand I.	D&D Suggs
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	6	1	Niagara Falls	S&T O'Donnell
"	26 - 31	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Shrike	1 - 30	11 repts	Throughout WNY	Many observers
Common Raven	1	8	Allegany SP	Baird
"	6	2	South Dayton	Neveu
"	14	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird et al
Horned Lark	8	16	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	13	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	1	Farmersville	DeSha
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	13	10	Yates	D'Anna
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	27	20	Somerset	J&K Landau, Rew
Carolina Wren	5 - 29	7 repts	Throughout WNY	Several observers
Eastern Bluebird	1	2	Alexander	Beattie
"	7	6	Gowanda	J&K Landau
"	18	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson
American Robin	11	<u>102</u>	Tonawanda	Watson
"	15	<u>125</u>	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Mockingbird	10; 13	1; 1	Bethany	Beattie, Dart
"	23	1	Tonawanda	Watson
Amer. Tree Sparrow	13	<u>200</u>	Newfane	D'Anna
"	21	53	Bethany	Beattie
Savannah Sparrow	<u>13</u>	1	Newfane	D'Anna
Swamp Sparrow	7	6	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
White-thr. Sparrow	1	6	Amherst SP	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	1 - 31	1 - 3	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
Lapland Longspur	14	50	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	27	12	Somerset	J&K Landau, Rew
"	27	1	Wilson	J&K Landau, Rew
Snow Bunting	21; 27	20; 1	Wilson	Sharon; J&K Landau, Rew
"	27	40	Somerset	J&K Landau, Rew
"	30	14	Farmersville	DeSha
Red-w. Blackbird	13	<u>115</u>	Newfane	D'Anna
"	13	<u>150</u>	Hartland	D'Anna
Eastern Meadowlark	18	1	Fort Niagara	Sharon
Brown-head. Cowbird	13	<u>150</u>	Hartland	D'Anna
"	25	2 m + 1 f	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	29	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
Purple Finch	25	1	Pomfret	Mosher

Also seen in January: Mallard, Greater Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Kestrel, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:

**099**

Total for the year 2007:

**099**

# January 2007 Waterfowl Count Summary

by Jim Landau

**Overview:** The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January throughout the state's 10 assigned regions, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in monitoring long-term population changes, bird conservation planning and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955. The region consists of the New York State portion of the BOS study area and includes the Niagara River and adjacent waters of Lakes Erie and Ontario. The count period this year was January 13 – 21, 2007, with the target date of Sunday, January 14. Final results of the state waterfowl count will be published in "The Kingbird" and posted on the NYSOA website at: <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>.

**Weather:** The first two weeks of January were among the warmest ever, averaging some 13 degrees warmer than normal and were virtually snow free. All waters were ice-free, including the Great Lakes and all interior lakes, ponds, rivers and streams. On Friday, January 12 (the day before the count period began) the average temperature was 43° F with no snow on the ground. Then, in one of the most dramatic pattern changes in recent years, winter finally set in halfway through the count period. Interior still waters began to freeze over and lock up. By Monday, January 22 (the day after the count period closed) the average temperature was 23 °F with 5 inches of snow on the ground.

**Compilation:** The table on right lists the species, their accumulated tallies and trending patterns, if any. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

**Notes:** The unusually moderate weather lasted through the first half of the count period, affording most observers an easy time of it, and allowing for ample coverage on the count date. While many of the counters on the Niagara River, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie commented on the lack of significant numbers of waterfowl to be counted, inland counters remarked enthusiastically about waterfowl numbers and variety of species. In fact, many reports came from waters that historically have been frozen over at this point of the year, such as the Tonawanda/Iroquois/Oak Orchard complex, Lime Lake and Countryside Gravel Ponds. The wintry weather that set in for the second half of the count period found ever-increasing numbers of arriving birds, concluding with significant numbers of Canvasbacks on the final day of the count period. This 53<sup>rd</sup> waterfowl count logged record highs for Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, Northern Shoveler (35!), Ring-necked Duck (170!), Hooded Merganser (403!), Ruddy Duck (193!), Red-throated Loon, Double-crested Cormorant and American Coot (1202!). Buffleheads continued a significantly robust trend, with numbers recorded in the thousands for the sixth consecutive year. The only record low was for American Black Duck. Suspiciously absent for the second year in a

row, perhaps even more so due to the availability of so much open interior water, was Wood Duck.

Species	Number	Comments
Canada Goose	6766	record high
Mute Swan	4	variable (B)
Tundra Swan	312	record high
Gadwall	41	variable (E,F,O)
American Wigeon	50	above average (C,D,O)
Am. Black Duck	40	record low
Mallard	3263	average
Northern Shoveler	35	record high (B,J,M)
Northern Pintail	1	low (C)
Canvasback	11820	variable
Redhead	635	variable
Ring-necked Duck	170	record high
Greater Scaup	1535	low
Lesser Scaup	6	low (F,J)
Scaup species	150	
White-winged Scoter	164	(B,C,F)
Long-tailed Duck	612	low
Bufflehead	3161	high
Common Goldeneye	2169	variable
Hooded Merganser	403	record high
Common Merganser	1513	variable
Red-br. Merganser	743	variable
Ruddy Duck	193	record high (I,J,M)
Red-throated Loon	5	record high (D)
Common Loon	1	variable (C)
Pied-billed Grebe	13	high
Horned Grebe	6	variable (B,F,H)
Double-cr. Cormorant	136	record high (D,F,I)
American Coot	1202	record high
Other species	195	
<b>Total Species</b>	<b>28</b>	Above average
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>35344</b>	variable

## Sections and Compilers:

Sec	Compilers	Area(s) surveyed
A	Roberta Vallone	Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott)
B	Peter Yoerg	Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara)
C	Bob Deleon	Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls (NY)
D	Mike Zebehazy	Niagara-On-The-Lake to Niagara Falls (ON)
E	Gerry Rising, Joe Thill	Buffalo Harbor to Goat Island (NY)
F	Gerry Rising, Bill Broderick	Jaeger Rocks to Horseshoe Falls (ON)
G	Bill Burch	Grand Island, NY
H	Dave Suggs	Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek)
I	Fran Rew	Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line)
J	Bob Sundell	Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake
K	Tim Baird	Cattaraugus County, Olean & Salamanca
L	Doris Burton	Allegany County
M	William Watson	Batavia
N	Ed Ratajczak	Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs
O	Ed Ratajczak	Iroquois NWR
P	Bill Burch	Amherst, Clarence, Cheektowaga, Lancaster
Q	Tom Connare	Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery
R	Elizabeth Wells	South Park, Cazenovia Park

Participation in New York's Annual Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey. We are also requested by the DEC to report any Bald Eagle sightings during the waterfowl count, to be included in their annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. They, in turn, contribute the New York State census to the national Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey, which is coordinated by the Biological Resources Division of the U. S. Geological Survey. The following sightings were reported: 1/13/07 – 1 adult, 2 p.m. Nazareth Road, Clymer, NY., Ann C. Beebel 1/13/07 - 1 adult, no time given. Angelica, NY., Doris Burton; 1/14/07 – 1 adult, 9:30 a.m. Motor Island in Niagara River, Tonawanda, NY., Gerry Rising; 1/14/07 – 2 adults, 11 a.m. Countryside Gravel Ponds, Dayton, NY., David Neveu; 1/14/07 - 1 immature, 8:30 a.m. Gargoyle Park, Olean, NY., Tim Baird; 1/14/07 - 2 adults, noon. Cayuga Pool, Iroquois NWR, Ed Ratajczak; 1/16/07 - 1 adult female, 9 a.m. Bittersweet Dr., Fluvanna, NY., Bill Sleen; 1/18/07 - 1 adult male, noon. Lakewood Community Park, Celoron, NY., Bill Sleen

Participants and contributors to this year's January Waterfowl Count included: Tim Baird, Pat Bogan, Donald Brasure, Bill Broderick, Bill Burch, Olive Burch, Doris Burton, Ken Cohen, Tom Connare, Bob Deleon, Donna Deleon, Emma Deleon, Mike Desha, Steve Eaton, Brett Ewald, Mike Galas, Doug Happ, Barbara Henderson, Audrey Horbett, Mary Jordan, Jim Landau, Karen Landau, Jerry Lazarczyk, Tom LeBlanc, Mike Morgante, David Neveu, Ed Ratajczak, Fran Rew, Gerry Rising, Gerry Rising, Jr., Jim Rozanski, Bill Sleen, Tom Simmons, Dave Suggs, Debbie Suggs, Bob Sundell, Joe Thill, John Thill, Roberta Vallone, Bill Watson, Liz Wells, Larry Wilson, Peter Yoerg, and Mike Zebehazy.

## The Next New Species and Breeders in the B.O.S. Study Area

by Jim Pawlicki

The recently printed eighth edition of the BOS Verification Date Guide (2007) highlights five new species and three new breeding species since the last full update in 1998. *What new species and breeders will occur next within the BOS study area?* We asked the verification date guide committee members to consider this question and list five new species they suspect will next be documented (location/month) and what three species will next be identified as breeders (location) in the BOS study area. Three committee members: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, and Jim Pawlicki responded.

### Part I: The next five new species.

Three species made all the lists, some of which may represent a surprising absence from the current BOS study area checklist:

Fish Crow: Allegany River (Salamanca) in May and the Lake Ontario Plain in April. The difficult identification of

this species is perhaps the largest factor for its absence from the checklist, since in order to distinguish a Fish Crow from the very similar American Crow, you must hear it call. A well-known saying is to ask a crow whether or not it is an American Crow, and if not, it will respond with a nasal "uh, uh" – the Fish Crow's most distinctive and diagnostic call. The more common calls of the Fish Crow though, are single nasal "uh's" which have to be carefully separated from the very similar nesting call of American Crows around April-July. Spring is a good time for Fish Crows to be wandering and looking for new territory, as well as vocal, and the recent expansion of the species along the Allegany River around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania could perhaps lead to one or more moving north along the Allegany River into Cattaraugus County. The Braddock Bay area just to our east along the Lake Ontario shore also sports several spring records, and therefore observers should keep a sharp ear out when exploring the Lake Ontario shore in spring.

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Eurasian Collared-Dove is an introduced species from Europe with an established population that has been rapidly expanding northward and westward from the southeastern U.S. in recent years. This species has been recently added to the New York State list, but sightings in the northeast could represent local escaped cage birds. Care must also be taken to distinguish the species in the field from the similar European Turtle-Dove, an infrequent escapee. The months and locations given by all three responders were the same: the Lake Erie Plain in May. As with Mourning Doves, this species is partial to bird feeders and utility lines where it is most likely to be found within the region. There was a recent unconfirmed report from northern Chautauqua County in May 2006, leading one to speculate that a confirmed record is inevitable in the near future.

Townsend's Warbler: Niagara River shore in November, and the Lake Ontario Plain in May. This species has a well-defined habit of appearing in the east during the late fall, and is almost "expected" to occur somewhere along the coast within the New England states during that time. The Niagara River during the gull season presents a good location for one to be seen perhaps due to the concentrations of birders and the tendency for warblers to linger along the Niagara River into the late fall and winter months. Hint: look carefully amongst chickadee flocks in conifers, as well as at bird feeders and under the eaves of buildings where late season insects may be found. The spring warbler migration along the Lake Ontario Plain also presents a good opportunity for finding this species amongst flocks of the more locally common warblers, as shown by an occurrence in late April at Braddock Bay just to our east in 2001.

The following six species were each mentioned once, and all represent possible new species:

Golden-crowned Sparrow: Niagara County in November. Golden-crowned Sparrow is a western species that has a tendency to wander to the east coast in the fall, as shown by the dozen or so coastal records of this species in the New England states and the Maritimes in Canada. There

have been two unconfirmed reports of this species in the BOS study area in the past, and we can hope that a confirmed record will be forthcoming. November as well as October is a good time to keep an eye out for this species amongst large flocks of White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows which are migrating through the region at that time. Also like other sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows are rather partial to bird feeders, and keeping a close eye on the local feeder birds in the late fall, early winter, and even May, could turn up this west coast species.

**Bridled Tern:** Lake Ontario in August (after a hurricane). With increased hurricane activity predicted along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts in the future, there is bound to be a number of pelagic species waiting to be found on the Great Lakes following the passage of hurricane remnants. Bridled Tern is perhaps one of the most likely additions to our list from such an event. After the passage of Hurricane Isabel's remnants in 2001, there were several reports of Bridled Terns on Lake Ontario just to our east, and if these identifications were correct, there seems little doubt that this species passed through our region as well, yet unrecorded. Past hurricane landfalls have told us that large numbers of Sooty Terns also turn up inland after the landfall of a hurricane, and therefore caution is required to separate these very similar, yet very attractive terns.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** Port Weller, Ontario in November. As with Townsend's Warbler and Golden-crowned Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatchers have become an increasingly sought after species on the eastern seaboard in the late fall and early winter. It would be a nice addition to the long list of western species that have occurred at Port Weller in the past, due to its prime location along the south shore of Lake Ontario. Any *Myiarchus* flycatcher seen after late September should be carefully scrutinized, as Great-crested Flycatchers are very rare at that time, and chances improve that the bird in question could be an Ash-throated Flycatcher. The closest our region has come to recording this species was an individual that lingered in early December at Hamlin Beach State Park just to our east in 2004. In addition, there has been a spring report of this species at Point Gratiot within our region in the 1980's, but unfortunately the details of the sighting were lost. Southwest originating low pressure systems are often thought of as being responsible for bringing this species to the northeast, and thus any western flycatchers should be kept in mind during those increasingly warm, mild days in the late fall.

**Mountain Bluebird:** Lake Ontario Plain in October. Mountain Bluebird is the high elevation, western counterpart to our Eastern Bluebird, and they have been known to wander to the northeast in the early spring and late fall. Although the males of this species are distinctly different from our bluebirds, the females and immatures can be hard to identify. However, a careful study should reveal the more slender shape, as well as colder blue-gray plumage tones typical of this species. As you may have guessed, a wayward Mountain Bluebird in the East is most likely going to associate with Eastern Bluebirds, so the next time a flock of

bluebirds brightens up that dreary day in late October, look closely – one day you might just be surprised.

**Gray Kingbird:** Lake Erie Plain in September. This species, a resident of the Florida peninsula and abundant in parts of Central and South America, like most flycatchers, has the tendency to wander well away from their known range during the fall months. In recent years, more and more have been found along the eastern seaboard, as well as inland. The records coming from around our region, such as Seneca County in central New York in 1987, and Monroe County just to our east in 2005, suggest the possibility that one could occur within our study area in the near future. As with any vagrant, care must be taken to identify this species. The greatest concern would be confusion with our resident Eastern Kingbirds, but other possible vagrants, most notably the similar Thick-billed Kingbird from western Mexico, should also be considered.

**Yellow-legged Gull:** Niagara River in December. This European gull may have already occurred on the Niagara River, but the limited knowledge of the species and limited use of digital photography in the past, resulted in the lack of adequate documentation and analysis that would have been required to firmly identify the species. As with any species of large gull, birders have had a very cautious, but appropriate approach to identifying Yellow-legged Gulls as vagrants within North America. As the name suggests, this species has bright yellow legs, which along with its slightly darker gray back and wings, are the key features for identifying adults. The most likely source of confusion comes from hybrids, such as Herring Gull x Lesser Black-backed Gull and their offspring, as well as very rare "yellow-legged" Herring Gulls. We can only hope that we are given another opportunity to identify this species within the BOS study area in the near future, now that we have a greater knowledge of its plumages and better documentation techniques.

#### Summary:

Willie D'Anna: Fish Crow – Lake Ontario Plain, April; Eurasian Collared-Dove – Lake Erie Plain, May; Townsend's Warbler – Lake Ontario Plain, May; Gray Kingbird – Lake Erie Plain, September; Yellow-legged Gull – Niagara River, December

Mike Morgante: Fish Crow – Allegany River, May; Eurasian Collared-Dove – Lake Erie Plain, May; Townsend's Warbler – Niagara River shore, November; Golden-crowned Sparrow – Niagara County, November; Bridled Tern – Lake Ontario, August (after hurricane)

Jim Pawlicki: Fish Crow – Allegany River (Salamanca), May; Eurasian-Collared-Dove – Lake Erie Plain, May; Townsend's Warbler – Niagara River shore, November; Ash-throated Flycatcher – Lake Ontario shore (Port Weller), November; Mountain Bluebird – Lake Ontario Plain, October

End of Part 1. Look next month for Part 2, the next three new species predicted to breed in the BOS study area.

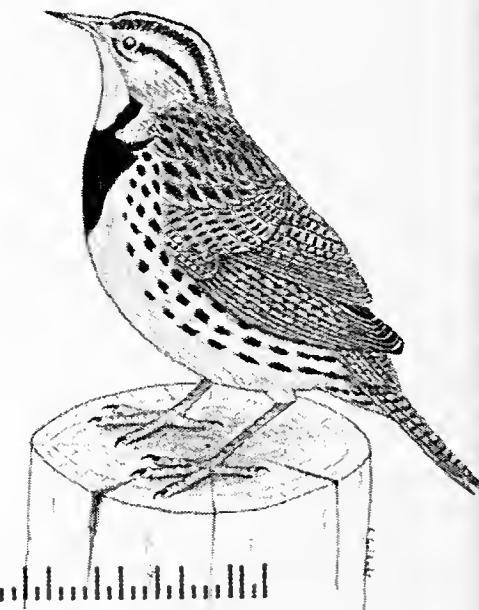
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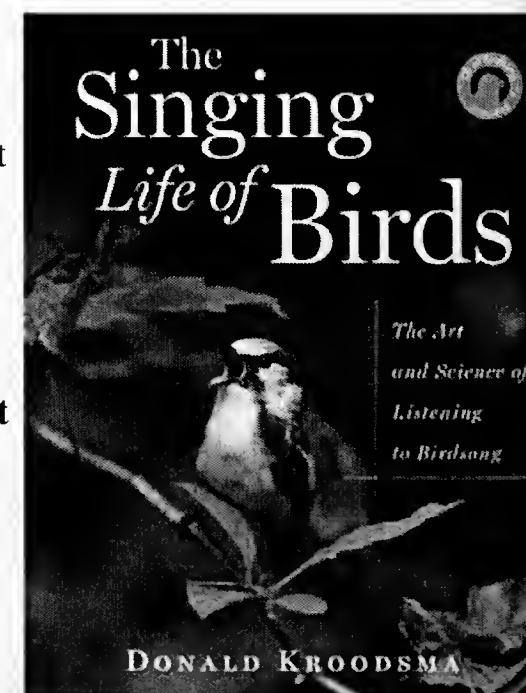
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**BOS Grant Applications Due on April 30, 2007. Download application materials at [www.bosbirding.org](http://www.bosbirding.org)**

- Mar. 1 - May 15:** Hamburg Hawk Watch will officially begin counting on March 1 and continue through May 15. The watch is conducted at Lakeside Memorial Park, just inside the Camp Rd. entrance, between Routes 5 and 20. Stop by between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and see what's migrating! Contact Jim Landau, 941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)
- Apr. 11:** BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. The Canisius College Computational Ecology Research Group (Sara Morris, Professor of Biology, and David Sheets, Professor of Physics and their students) will present research posters.
- Apr. 7:** Saturday not Sunday. Oak Orchard Swamps Field Trip. Meet at 8:00 AM at Cayuga Pool parking lot that is on Route 77 in Iroquois NWR. Leader: Gail W. Seamans (716-902-4089 or [gails@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gails@rochester.rr.com)).
- Apr. 15:** April Count: Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or [mhsr@wzrd.com](mailto:mhsr@wzrd.com)).
- Apr. 22:** Sunday. Braddock Bay Trip. Jim Pawlicki (BOS) and Bob Spahn (RBA). Meet at the Tanning Bed at Main and Transit at 7:00 AM. The group will proceed to the parking lot at Braddock Bay (Monroe County) for a 9:30 AM rendezvous with the RBA. This trip may be canceled due to weather conditions. Contact Jim at [Animalkid10@aol.com](mailto:Animalkid10@aol.com) or 636-3915.
- April 25:** The Vaughn Lecture will be at 7:00 PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science Auditorium. "The Singing Life of Birds" will be presented by Donald Kroodsma.



# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### THE MONTH: February

*Mike DeSha*

According to Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service, it was "a very wintry month." The average temperature, 25.9 °F, was 7.3 degrees less than normal while precipitation totaled 1.71 inches, 0.71 less than normal.

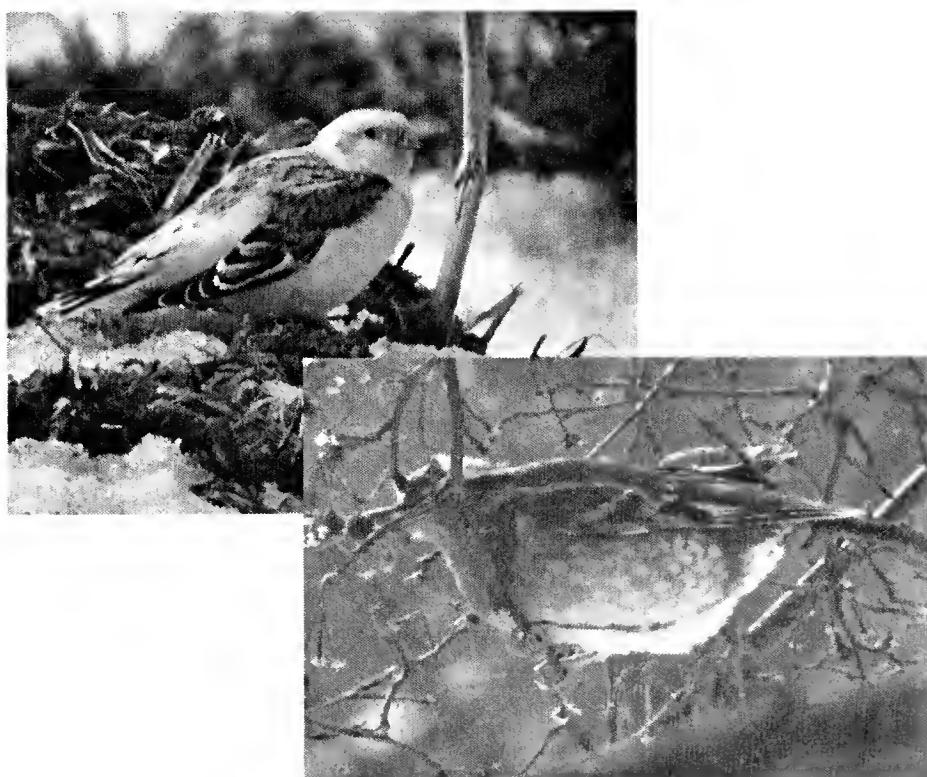
McLaughlin continues "The abrupt pattern that began in mid-January continued through nearly all of February as our region was locked in the Arctic deep freeze for just about the entire month." It was Buffalo's coldest February in 28 years and snowiest in 12 years. Temperatures were below freezing until the 19<sup>th</sup> with the 22-day stretch (since January 28) the longest here since 1985.

The persistence of snowfall was amazing with at least a bit of snow falling on 26 of the 28 days. The snows were generally of the 'nickel and dime' variety with only two falls of 3-inches or more. Lake Erie finally froze during the first couple of weeks, but not soon enough to prevent a major lake effect event on 3-4<sup>th</sup>, which dumped one to three feet on the South Towns. Buffalo received 4 to 8 inches in this event. The other event was a synoptic one on the 14<sup>th</sup> as a huge storm crossed the Midwest and Northeast, but our area was on the northern and western fringe with a general 5 to 8 inches falling. The monthly total of 33.5 inches places it eighth on the all time snowiest Februaries in Buffalo dating back to 1884. Conditions finally moderated to near normal during the last week of the month. Snow covered the ground all month but depths were not substantial.

The meteorological winter was a very strange one indeed. It had a very split personality, with the first half exceedingly mild and snowless while the second half was consistently very cold and snowy overall. The cold did not quite balance out the mildness, so the win-

ter averaged out slightly mild with below normal snowfall. Of note is the season snowfall, which including the record October storm, stands at 81.3 inches through the end of February, very close to the normal to date of 80.7 inches."

T.S. Eliot wrote "April is the cruellest month," but I'm not sure he ever contended with a February like this one following such a benign early winter. There were still reports of sightings by those braving the weather to visit the various well-known winter birding areas. Bill Watson counted 1410 Canvasback on February 2 on the river at Grand Island. All three scoter species were found at Dunkirk Harbor. Neveu and the Landaus found up to 12 Surf Scoters from the 11<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. They noted up to 6 White-winged Scoters during the same period. Watson and Pawlicki saw a Black Scoter in the harbor on the 18<sup>th</sup> and the Moshers found one on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Snow Bunting (upper left) and Varied Thrush (lower right) photographed by, respectively, Jim Pawlicki near Marshall Rd., in the town of Yates, Orleans County on February 20, 2007 and Jerry Lazarczyk in Cambria on February 5, 2007.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

**Society Officers:**

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Bald Eagles were present throughout our region, despite the inclement weather. On the 20<sup>th</sup> Watson saw two adults at a nest in Iroquois NWR. Three Rough-legged Hawks were seen in South Dayton by Neveu and the Landaus. DeFrancisco saw four of this species on the 28<sup>th</sup> in various townships of Chataqua County. Yoerg reported that up to three Merlins were roosting throughout the month at the UB South campus. Neveu spotted a Peregrine Falcon at South Dayton on February 3.

Five Long-eared Owls seen by D'Anna on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at Golden Hill State Park were a nice find. Watson, *et al.* found two of this species at the park on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. The O'Donnells saw a Short-eared Owl in Yates and then Carlton. Roberson found two Short-eared Owls in Wheatfield.

The easy choice for bird of the month is the vagrant Varied Thrush first reported by Gerry Rising from the backyard feeders of Bob and Joan Barry in Cambria, Niagara County. This was the only species sighted during the month that required a verification report. Reports distinguished this Robin-sized bird from an American Robin by its thinner bill, orange breast with a gray breast band, light orange supercilium, and rusty orange wing bars. Varied Thrushes typically show up in the East during late winter and early spring. There are cyclic irruptions of this species, as measured from feeder station reports in the United States, but the vagrants showing up in our area do not seem to be correlated with these increases, suggesting they may come from Alaska or the Northwest Territory of Canada. (Wells, J.V. and K.V. Rosenberg, 1996. *Birdscope* 10, No. 2. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.)

On a final note unrelated to this month's birds, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has identified the parentage of the hybrid warbler netted by Dave Junkin back in June of 2006. The Cornell Lab is planning to publish an article about the bird so I will not reveal the results here. The answer, along with an illuminating article on hybridization,

is posted on line at the Lab's website at [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds) if you are interested.

## Wayne Gall: The Birds and the Bugs

by Bill Watson

At the Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Dr. Wayne Gall will present the lecture "The Birds and the Bugs: Avian Relationships with West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease."

In his presentation, Dr. Gall will "discuss the role of birds in the transmission cycle of West Nile virus, the spread of West Nile virus by migratory birds, the importance of birds in surveillance for West Nile virus, and the relevance of such surveillance data to public health. Also a fascinating published report will be reviewed that documents high mortality of captive owls resulting from an outbreak of West Nile virus at the Owl Foundation in Vineland, Ontario (Kay McKeever's facility), in 2002."

Regarding the relationship between birds and Lyme disease, Wayne "will present information that indicates the importance of passerine birds as hosts of immature stages of the deer tick. At least two published studies will be also reviewed that demonstrate the importance of spring migrating passersines in the dispersal of the deer tick and the dissemination of the spirochete that causes Lyme disease." Wayne K. Gall is the Regional Entomologist for the Western Region (Buffalo/Rochester) of the New York State Department of Health. He been with the State Department of Health in Buffalo since November, 2001. He is responsible for providing technical assistance on arthropod-borne diseases such as West Nile virus and Lyme disease to the 17 county health departments in the Western Region, and for performing associated research. Wayne is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Preventive Medicine at the University of Buffalo, where he teaches the graduate course, Arthropods of Public Health Importance. He is also Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biology at Buffalo State College where he maintains an office and lab. Wayne earned his B.A. in Biology at the University of Buffalo, M.S. in Entomology at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Ph.D. in Zoology at the University of Toronto.

However most of us know of Wayne Gall as the Buffalo Museum of Science's first Administrator of Tifft Nature Preserve. His initial appointment to this position was in 1983. From 1989 – 2001, Wayne was the museum's Associate Curator and then Curator of Entomology. Wayne served on the staff of the Buffalo Museum of Science for nearly 19 years. Wayne resides in Lancaster with his wife, Susan, who is a School Nurse. They have three children.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	17	5	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	2	Pt. Breeze	Watson, Pawlicki
Tundra Swan	2, 8	60,144	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	5	15	Pomfret	Mosher
"	17	53	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Gadwall	8; 21, 24	3; 3, 6	Tonawanda	Watson; Hess
"	8	6	Goat I.	Watson
Canvasback	2	1410	Grand I.	Watson
Redhead	8, 10	22, 65	Tonawanda	Watson
"	21	265; 40	Tonawanda	Watson; Hess
Ring-necked Duck	10	1	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	17	34	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Potter
Greater Scaup	10	1 (leucistic)	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk, Stein
Lesser Scaup	2	20	Beaver I. SP	Watson
"	21	100	Tonawanda	Hess
* Surf Scoter	8, 10, 21	1, 1, 1	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11 - 23	5 - 12	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu et al
"	17	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
White-winged Scoter	11 - 23	1 - 6	Dunkirk Harbor	K&J Landau et al
"	17	6	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	20	133	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	24	16	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
* Black Scoter	18; 23	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlicki; Mosher
Long-tailed Duck	11	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	20	24	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Hooded Merganser	3	34	N. Tonawanda	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	5, 24	34, 44	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	11 - 23	7 - 10	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Watson
Ruddy Duck	9	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Galas
"	10	1	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11 - 23	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher et al
Red-throated Loon	20	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Watson
Common Loon	11; 18	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	11 - 23	3 - 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Watson
Horned Grebe	11 - 23	2 - 12	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu, Watson
Red-necked Grebe	18; 27	2; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Neveu; Mosher
D.-crested Cormorant	8, 10	5, 4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	18	86	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Great Blue Heron	21	61	Motor I.	Watson
"	23	10	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Great Blue Heron	24	12	Queenston (Ont)	Watson
* Black-cr. Night-Heron	8F, 10	1, 2	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	8 - 24	1 - 3	Strawberry I.	Watson et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	2	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	11	1	Ripley	DeFrancisco
"	11	1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	K&J Landau, Neveu
"	18	4 - 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson et al
"	19	1	Falconer	DeFrancisco
"	20	2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	25	1	Machias	DeSha
"	28	4	South Valley	DeFrancisco
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	3, 17	3, 3	South Dayton	Neveu
"	11	3	South Dayton	K&J Landau
"	21	1	Somerset	Watson
"	21	1	Yates	Watson, Pawlicki
"	28	2	Ellington	DeFrancisco
"	28	1	Charlotte	DeFrancisco
"	28	1	Gerry	DeFrancisco
Merlin	1 - 28	1 - 3	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	3	1	South Dayton	Neveu
American Coot	8, 10; 21	3, 4; 4	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki; Watson
"	18	26	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
Iceland Gull	3	1	Pt. Breeze	D'Anna
"	8	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki, Watson
Glaucous Gull	8	2	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	11	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18; 23	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Moshers, Benton
* Barred Owl	11	1	Bond Lake CP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Long-eared Owl	3, 11	5; 5	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	20; 25	2; 2	Golden Hill SP	Watson et al
Short-eared Owl	19	1	Yates	S&T O'Donnell
"	19	1	Carlton	S&T O'Donnell
"	27	2	Wheatfield	Roberson
* Red-headed Wdpkr.	20	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Pawlicki, Watson
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	1 - 18	1	Bethany (f)	Beattie
Northern Shrike	28	1	South Valley	DeFrancisco
"	28	1	Ellington	DeFrancisco
"	28	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	S&T O'Donnell
Common Raven	25	1	Farmersville	DeSha
Horned Lark	10	62	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	11, 15, 18	40, 153, 29	Bethany	Beattie et al
"	11	240	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
Horned Lark	17	22	South Dayton	Neveu
"	25	30	Somerset, Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
<i>E. a. alpestris</i>	20	4	Yates	Pawlicki, Watson
<i>E. a. praticola</i>	20	35	Yates	Pawlicki, Watson
Carolina Wren	2	1	Grand I.	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	12	1	Colden	K&J Landau
"	17, 23	1, 1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	25	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
Eastern Bluebird	9	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	11	2	Bond Lake CP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	3	Pt. Breeze	Watson, Pawlicki
"	20	3	Yates	Watson
American Robin	20	25	Alexander	Dart

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	34	Lakeside Beach SP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	87	Beaver I. SP	T O'Donnell
* <u>Varied Thrush</u>	5	1	Cambria	Rising, Lazarczyk, Watson et al
"	11	1	Cambria	Yoerg, Henderson
American Tree Sparrow	15	410	Wilson	D'Anna
"	17	15	Bethany	Beattie
Song Sparrow	2	4	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
White-thr. Sparrow	1	1	Colden	K&J Landau
"	8	1	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15, 18	3, 3	Bethany	Beattie
"	20	1	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Lapland Longspur	11; 19	58; 12	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	20	3	Yates	Watson
"	25	20	Somerset, Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
Snow Bunting	1, 15	63, 160	Bethany	Beattie
"	11	120	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	20	60	Yates	Watson
"	25	70	Farmersville	DeSha
"	25	200	Somerset, Yates	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-w. Blackbird	18F	23	Four Mile Creek SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	28	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Common Grackle	28F	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Purple Finch	5 - 8	<u>19</u>	Pomfret (f)	Moshers

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**099**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**008**

**Total for the year 2007:**

**107**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

**Bird Photographs Wanted:** This is an opportunity for BOS members to show off the fine photos many of you have taken over the years. The BOS Communications Committee is putting together a set of display boards to be used at various public functions. We need photos of birds and we would like to obtain these from our members, if possible. We are trying to relay information to both the novice and the experienced birder, so we need photos of common birds, as well as rarities. We also need information on any research that is BOS related. Please send things as soon as possible. Thanks. Contact Liz Wells 92 West Winspear Ave. Buffalo, NY 14214 rozwellus@yahoo.com 716/837-0486

**Calendar Addendum: June 1-3: Friday-Sunday. 49th Annual Allegany Nature Pilgrimage.** For more information or to register visit [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org) For over four decades the Buffalo Audubon Society has partnered with the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation as well as Jamestown Audubon Society, Presque Island (PA) Audubon Society and the Burroughs Nature Club (Rochester). This three-day weekend held in the beginning of June at Allegany State Park is the highlight of the year for hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts. Over one hundred presentations, hikes, lectures, workshops, and special events highlight the three-day weekend. Campsite or cabin rental must be separately arranged with New York State Parks.

# The Next New Species and Breeders in the B.O.S. Study Area

By Jim Pawlicki

The recently printed eighth edition of the BOS Verification Date Guide (2007) indicated that five new species and three new breeding species were added to the BOS checklist since the last full update of the Date Guide in 1998. So what are the next new species and breeders to occur within the BOS study area? To provide some insights to that question, we asked the verification date guide committee members to list, in random, what they thought would be the next five new species to occur, as well as the next three species to breed within the BOS study area. In addition we asked them to include the locations and months for each new species, and locations for each breeding species. Three committee members - Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, and Jim Pawlicki independently responded to the request.

## Part II: The next three new breeding species:

The first two species made all three lists:

Sandhill Crane: Lake Erie Plain (Grand River) on the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario and Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. Since the mid-1990's, Sandhill Cranes have shown a steady increase as spring migrants through the region mostly due to the expansion of their breeding population around the Great Lakes. The breeding population just north of Long Point on the Lake Erie Plain in Ontario has grown to several pairs in recent years and New York State saw its first confirmed nesting in 2003 at the Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex. At both locations they have remained as successful breeders. In our region, there have been several summer reports over the last decade, yet a confirmed nesting record still has yet to be accepted. In August of 2006, a family of two adult and one immature cranes was found at the edge of our study area near the Grand River just northwest of Dunnville in Ontario. Given how late in the nesting season the observation was made, combined with how close it was to our region's border, we could only speculate that they nested within our territory at this locale. Close observation at this particular site around the height of the breeding season between May and June, along with other large wetland and grassland sites that have harbored summer records, such as Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, will hopefully lead to a confirmed nesting in the very near future.

Worm-eating Warbler: Cattaraugus County (Allegany Indian Reservation). Worm-eating Warblers are a southern breeding warbler, and within our region, are primarily known as spring overshoots at the height of the songbird migration. In the last decade, Worm-eating Warblers have been expanding their breeding range slowly northward, and are now found as common breeders on specific hillsides just south of Ithaca in central New York, where they were formerly very rare. On several occasions in recent years,

one or two have been found in June along steep and thick deciduous slopes within our region in southern Cattaraugus County. They are most often found by tracking down a dry, mechanical-like trill, and discovering that it was indeed not one of the expected Dark-eyed Juncos! Typically these individuals are thought to be bachelor males utilizing the limited amount of suitable habitat just north of their regular breeding range, and thus have minimal amount of success attracting a female at that time. Close observation at well known sites, such as the Allegany Indian Reservation just west of Salamanca in June and July, will hopefully bring about the discovery of a male who has had the fortune of attracting a female, and lead to a nesting within the region.

The following three species were each mentioned once:

White-winged Crossbill: Allegany County. White-winged Crossbills are a nomadic species with a population that irrupts into our region every half dozen years, primarily during the winter months and depending on the availability of conifer seed crops throughout the northeast and eastern Canada. The fact that their nesting is tied closely to the availability of conifer seeds allows them to nest at nearly any time of year, which can be quite a feat for such a small bird during the late winter months! Throughout the higher elevations extending from the Adirondacks through central New York and into the Appalachians, they are sporadic breeders, and only utilize these areas at the south end of their range when seed crops of spruces, tamaracks, and firs in those regions are especially abundant. There have been several reports throughout the year of White-winged Crossbills in Allegany County, yet no documented nesting activity. Allegany County harbors some of the highest elevations within our territory, as well as several large tracts of conifer plantations, and would seem to be the most likely place where nesting White-winged Crossbills would be found.

Trumpeter Swan: Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge. The history of Trumpeter Swans in our region before the last decade is nearly non-existent. The wild population was at an all time low consisting of only 69 individuals in 1935, which increased very slowly over the last half century. Throughout the last century, they occurred exclusively in northwestern North America, where the only remaining wild population of this species existed. However, recent recovery efforts have introduced them into the Great Lakes region. There is some controversy to these efforts on the basis of whether they were historically native to this region, but regardless, their population due to these efforts has been steadily increasing over last ten years. This is shown by recent successful breeding in a few select sites throughout New York State; the closest to our territory being a specific locale just north of Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. In our region they have become a rare, but regular winter and fall visitant, with a limited number of spring and summer sightings. Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge has much open marsh habitat similar to that of Montezuma, and presents one of the most likely places for Trumpeter Swans to nest within our region.

Snowy Egret: Motor Island, Niagara River. Snowy Egret is an attractive southern heron that is primarily known as a spring and late summer wanderer north to the Great Lakes. Many of the southern herons have been steadily increasing over the last half century and have been expanding their ranges well up along the Atlantic coast into the northeastern states. A relevant example within our region is Great Egret, which is now a regular nester amongst the Great Blue and Black-crowned Night-Herons at the Motor Island rookery on the upper Niagara River. Formerly, Great Egrets were known only as an uncommon spring, summer, and fall visitant. Over the years, Snowy Egrets have been sporadic in their frequency of occurrence within the region. Inclusively, they occurred within the region between the years 1993 to 2001, but did not occur during the following four years. In May of 2000, one, possibly two individuals were seen coming to roost amongst the resident herons on Motor Island, but close observation failed to reveal evidence of nesting, although it was suspected given the location and time of year. This species has nested once to the northwest of our region at Hamilton Harbor in Ontario, which suggests the possibility that they could also do so within our region in the near future.

#### Summary:

Willie D'Anna: Sandhill Crane – Grand River, Ontario; Worm-eating Warbler – Cattaraugus County (Allegany Indian Res.); Trumpeter Swan – Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge.

Mike Morgante: Sandhill Crane – Lake Erie Plain, Ontario; Worm-eating Warbler – Cattaraugus County (Allegany Indian Res.); White-winged Crossbill – Allegany County.

Jim Pawlicki: Sandhill Crane – Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; Worm-eating Warbler – Cattaraugus County (Allegany Indian Res.); Snowy Egret – Motor Island, Niagara River.

I would like to thank Willie D'Anna and Mike Morgante for participating, as well as their insightful comments, and Jack Skalicky for his editing.

## BOS Rare Bird Hotline

by Tom O'Donnell

The BOS is testing an automated calling system. By the time you read this, you should have received the inaugural message announcing the system. All members who have provided their telephone numbers will receive these general messages for such things as weather related cancellations.

The second part of the system is a replacement for the former telephone-tree rare bird hotline. One phone call to record the information regarding a rare bird and its location starts the system and technology then takes over. It calls all the numbers and keeps trying for the rest of the day or until the line is answered either by a person or answering machine or voicemail system. This is intended as a complement to Dial-A-Bird and not a replacement.

Only BOS members are eligible to join this hotline. To register call Mike Galas at 693-4892 or email him at [mgalas@adelphia.net](mailto:mgalas@adelphia.net). You can register a cell phone or land-line phone or both. When you register, Mike will provide instructions on reporting rare birds. Initially we are defining rare birds to be any bird which always requires a verification report according to the latest edition of the BOS Date Guide. There is a cost to the Society for providing this service, so we ask that you follow the guidelines.

We hope that the coming year brings many opportunities to use the hotline.

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Buffalo Museum of Science  
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Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## May – June Calendar

### BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

- Mar. 1 - May 15:** Hamburg Hawk Watch will officially begin counting on March 1 and continue through May 15. The watch is conducted at Lake-side Memorial Park, just inside the Camp Rd. entrance, between Routes 5 and 20. Stop by between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and see what's migrating! Contact Jim Landau, 941-3869 or [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)
- May 6: Sunday. BOS Sanctuary Field Trip.** Meet at 9:00 AM at 3040 Love Road Grand Island for this half day trip for spring migrants. Dress appropriately. Leader: Jerry Lazarczyk 716-773-7452; [lazarcg1@netzero.com](mailto:lazarcg1@netzero.com)
- May 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM** in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Jerry Farrell will discuss Bird Banding at Lewiston Station: Spring and Fall 2006.
- May 12: Saturday not Sunday. Tifft Nature Preserve and Times Beach** for warblers. Meet at the Tifft Nature Preserve parking lot (off Fuhrmann Blvd.) at 7:30 AM. Leader: Bill Bogacki (674-5781).
- May 20: May Count.** Coordinator: Robert DeLeon (626-0325/[rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rldeleon@yahoo.com)). BOS members are expected to participate.
- May 23: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Dr. Wayne Gall will present, "The Birds and the Bugs: Avian Relationships with West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease."
- June 1-3: Friday-Sunday.** Allegany Nature Pilgrimage. For more information or to register visit [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org). (see page 20)
- June 8: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West Street - west bank of Welland Canal, Port Colborne, Ontario). Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations will be appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).
- June 13: Wednesday. The Annual June Picnic** will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve. A short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve will follow. Bring your and eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center

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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 4 April, 2007

### THE MONTH: March

*Tim Baird*

Although spring does not officially arrive before late March, those who follow birds know that nature is gearing up for spring throughout the month. The Northern Hemisphere is changing its angle toward the sun, and regardless of the weather, our birds are responding to the increase in daylight and the angle of the sun's rays.

Of course, the weather does affect both birds and birders on a day to day basis, and a weather summary for a month may be misleading. According McLaughlin's March weather summary from the National Weather Service, March's mean temperature for Buffalo was 35.0 °F, nearly a degree above the normal mean of 34.3 °F. However, March started cold with 12 of the first twenty days averaging below normal. The temperature topping out at 9 °F was a record low for a maximum temperature on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The 6<sup>th</sup> also set a record for the date with a low of 0 °F. Mild temperatures during the last 11 days helped bring the month slightly above normal. The month's highest temperature was 72 °F on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

McLaughlin summarizes March 2007 as "a bit dry". March's 2.61 inches of total precipitation failed to reach the month's average by 0.38 inches. Snowfall at 5.4 inches was 7.0 inches below normal and the lowest for March in 12 years. Cloud cover won out over clear skies as the possible sunshine at 42 percent was slightly below normal.

Winds were moderate for the month averaging 11.9

mph, gusting to a maximum of 43 mph from the southwest on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Winds on the 22<sup>nd</sup> apparently facilitated good flights of Red-shouldered Hawks and Turkey Vultures with 68 and 865, respectively, counted by Watson on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Hamburg Hawkwatch, and 36

Red-shouldered Hawks passing the Ripley Hawkwatch on the 25<sup>th</sup> as reported by Yoerg and Henderson.

Lake Erie was frozen at the start of the month and ice remained present in the eastern basin for the entire period. Despite significant variation in weather through the month, McLaughlin summarized March as "an unusually quiet March for the Buffalo area". Nevertheless, to those of us interested in birds, March is rarely quiet.

The thawing of aquatic habitats makes March a good month for waterfowl and other species dependent on open water. Data for March were sent in by 17 birders and totaled 107 species. About half of the species reported, and by far the largest numbers of individuals, can be considered in the aquatic habitat dependent category. Only one reporter mentioned Canada Goose (Yoerg). Considering Canada Geese at a time when this species was rare outside



Barred Owl (left) photographed by Christopher Osmanski on March 17, 2007 at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve and Surf Scoters (upper right adult male and lower right immature male) photographed by Jerry Lazarczyk on March 6, 2007 at Dunkirk Harbor.

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30	<b>Bird – Tower Collisions</b> <i>Karen Cotton</i>
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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] skalicky@biochem.utah.edu  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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Canvasbacks numbering at least 9160 individuals on the west river at Grand Island on March 25<sup>th</sup> was submitted by Lazarczyk. Lazarczyk notes these Canvasbacks occurred along with many other waterfowl species including a minimum of 700 Redheads. Possibly the ice in the eastern basin of Lake Erie contributed to this duck concentration on the river.

March bought the first reports of Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shovelers, and Green-winged Teal for the region in 2007. These are species that are dependent more on wetlands than the larger bodies of water, so they are less likely to be present in the depths of winter when the shallower, static stands of water normally remain frozen.

Red-necked Grebe migration sped up at the end of the month with D'Anna reporting 14 at Four Mile Creek State Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and an impressive 30 at Golden Hill State Park on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Weather conditions in the second half of March apparently benefited the northern movement of other species as well. Among them, Turkey Vultures and Red-shouldered Hawks noted above. Eastern Phoebe were first noted by the Mosher on the 17<sup>th</sup> at Pomfret. The first

of spring and fall migrations, Beardslee and Mitchell reported in *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* that "possibly 100,000 (Canada) geese are present" during the spring migration (March and April) in western New York. No doubt we still experience large numbers of Canada Geese on their way north, but our resident population has likely dulled our enthusiasm for reporting this species even though their numbers may still be noteworthy.

Verification reports were submitted for early dates on Eurasian Wigeon (19<sup>th</sup>) at Oak Orchard by Yoerg, Sandhill Crane (14<sup>th</sup>) at Youngstown by Landon, and Caspian Tern (31<sup>st</sup>) at Dunkirk Harbor by Neveu. Landon's count of 20 Sandhill Cranes at Youngstown is impressive and indicative of an increase in this species in the east. A verification form noting a large assemblage of Can-

Tree Swallows were 20 seen at Royalton by Watson on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Rising reported the first Hermit Thrush on the 13<sup>th</sup> at Golden Hill State Park. Rusty Blackbirds first seen by Landau on the 16<sup>th</sup> in Colden, increased to D'Anna's report of 24 at Hartland on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Cedar Waxwings were scarce as the only report was 22 seen by Andrle in Eden on the 30<sup>th</sup>. Our only wood warbler reported for March was Betrus' record of a Pine Warbler at J.P. Nicely Park in West Falls on the last day of the month. Viewed at close range without binoculars, his report illustrates the utility of careful observation.

The Carolina Wren reports published for the month of January, 2007 in *The Prothonotary* (Vol. 73, No. 2 February, 2007) note 7 reports for this species by "several observers throughout WNY". February 2007 reports hint at a decline (*The Prothonotary*, Vol. 73, No. 3 March 2007) with only three locations (Colden, Grand Island, and Silver Creek) noting Carolina Wrens. Carolina Wren reports came in from only two observers for March 2007, Lazarczyk found one on Grand Island and Neveu reported two at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek on March 21<sup>st</sup> and one in Silver Creek on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. More seasonal winter weather in February and much of March likely had a negative affect on this species.

Several reports for Bald Eagles attest to the success of this species' recovery. Mosher finding nine Bald Eagles at Dunkirk Harbor, including eight immature provides evidence for a viable population in the future. Like the Bald Eagle populations, Common Ravens are thriving. Allegany State Park continues to be a Common Raven stronghold with Yoerg and Henderson finding 8 there on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Two Lapland Longspurs and two Snow Buntings at Yates on the 17<sup>th</sup> reported by Salembier and Pawlicki are but a remnant of the numbers reported in January and February. The decline in these two species' numbers serve as a reminder that winter is waning in March, and our 'snow-birds' are leaving for the tundra.

Our "quiet March" for 2007 did not bring any exotic rarities to our region. However, one need only to survey the Noteworthy Records to appreciate the month was anything but quiet for the birds and the people who watch them.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Seventh Edition - Revised 2001) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlining of unprecedented and unusually high numbers of birds indicates an unusually high count for a species. An unprecedented number of a species must be accompanied by detailed notes of the observation and counting method used by the observer.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

A. R. MANN  
JUN 2 2007  
ITHACA

Gr. White-fr. Goose	19	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Snow Goose	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk, Mosher et al
"	11	70	Alfred	Brooks
"	13	11 wh+5 bl	Somerset	Watson
"	17	27	Yates	Pawlicki et al
"	18	60 wh+7 bl	Yates & Somerset	D'Anna et al
Tundra Swan	15	108	Newstead	Watson
"	19	185	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10 - 25	8 - 67	Several WNY locations	Several observers
* Wood Duck	15F	4	Newstead	Watson
"	15F	2	Eden	Andrle
"	19	11	Dunkirk	Lazarczyk
* Eurasian Wigeon	<u>19</u>	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
* American Wigeon	13	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	24	51	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
* American Black Duck	12	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	3	Ridgway	Watson
* Blue-winged Teal	23F	1	Yates	Sharon
Northern Shoveler	14F	2	Pomfret	Mosher
"	15	5	Eden	Andrle
"	28	58	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
* Northern Pintail	7F	1	Forest Lawn Cem.	Hess
"	10	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Green-winged Teal	10F	3	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	13	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	13	2	Wilson	Potter
Canvasback	25	<u>9160</u>	West River, Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Redhead	3, 15	184, 186	Tonawanda	Watson
"	14, 15	200, 700	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Ring-necked Duck	1 - 31	1 - 54	Several WNY locations	Several observers
"	15	300	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	24	264	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Lesser Scaup	15	4	Newstead	Watson
"	25	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	28	32	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Surf Scoter	5; 17	18; 18	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Mosher
"	6	3	Dunkirk	Lazarczyk
White-winged Scoter	2; 6, 17	2; 2, 3	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Mosher
"	13	70	Somerset	Watson
Black Scoter	6	1	Dunkirk	Lazarczyk
Long-tailed Duck	18	205	Lewiston	Watson
"	20	206	Lewiston	Lazarczyk et al
"	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Lazarczyk, Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Goldeneye	16	526	Niagara River	Watson
Ruddy Duck	4	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	82	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-throated Loon	11	1	Golden Hill SP	Sharon
"	18	1	Youngstown	Landon, Yonker
"	23	9	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Common Loon	17, 24	1, 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers, Salembier
"	31	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna (BOS)
Pied-billed Grebe	24	3	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	24	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Horned Grebe	6; 13	3; 13	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Lazarczyk
"	10	1	Almond	Brooks
"	18	3	Point Breeze	D'Anna et al
"	24	16	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
"	28	10	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	31	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-necked Grebe	3	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	5; 6	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Lazarczyk
"	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	23	14	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	31	30	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna (BOS)
* Great Egret	30F	2	Motor I.	Sharon
Black-cr. Night-Heron	18	2	Goat I.	Watson et al
"	25	8	Motor I.	Sharon
"	26	5	Goat I.	D'Anna
* Turkey Vulture	11F	1	Queenston (Ont)	Landon, Yonker
"	11F	3	Joseph Davis SP	Landon, Yonker
"	11F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	23	865	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
* Osprey	25F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Bald Eagle	3	1	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	6	8 imm, 1 ad	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
"	13,15; 19	2 + n; 1 + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Yoerg, Henderson
"	20	1	Navy I.	Watson et al
"	21	1 imm	Eden	Andrle
"	23	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	24	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Harrier	13	3	Yates	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	26, 27	1, 1	Eden	Andrle
* Northern Goshawk	25F	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	Yoerg, Henderson
* Red-shouldered Hawk	13F	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	23	68	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	23	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	25	36	Ripley Hawkwatch	Yoerg, Henderson
Rough-legged Hawk	4, 28	2, 7	South Dayton	Neveu
"	17	5	Yates	Pawlicki et al
"	25	2	Ripley Hawkwatch	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27	1	Eden	Andrle
Merlin	2 - 30	1 - 5	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
* <u>Sandhill Crane</u>	14F	20	Youngstown	Landon
"	24	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	25	2	Ripley Hawkwatch	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Killdeer	1F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
"	10	1	Wilson	Salembier
* Greater Yellowlegs	28F; 29	1; 3	Iroquois NWR	Chilton; Sharon
* Lesser Yellowlegs	29F	1	Iroquois NWR	Sharon
* Pectoral Sandpiper	30F	8	Kiantone	Neveu
Purple Sandpiper	20	1	Goat I.	Watson et al
* Wilson's Snipe	28F	2	South Dayton	Neveu
"	31	7	Hartland	D'Anna (BOS)
American Woodcock	13F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	23	3	Colden	J&K Landau
"	26	1	Dunkirk Airport	Lazarczyk
Little Gull	17	19	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
"	20	8	Lewiston	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	21	8	Lewiston	Landon
"	29	10	Lewiston	Hess
Iceland Gull	4	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	4	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17; 21	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers; Neveu
"	22	1	Porter	D'Anna
"	24	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Lesser Black-b. Gull	18	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Glaucous Gull	4	2	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lazarczyk et al
"	18	1	Yates	D'Anna et al
* Caspian Tern	<u>31F</u>	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Long-eared Owl	13	2	Golden Hill SP	Watson, Lazarczyk
"	17	3	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki et al
"	18	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter et al
"	22	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Red-headed Wdpkr.	4	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Eastern Phoebe	17F	1	Pomfret	Moshers
"	23	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Northern Shrike	31	1	Newfane	D'Anna
Common Raven	8	1	Ward	Brooks
"	11	8	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Horned Lark	31	18	Pomfret	Neveu
* Tree Swallow	15F	20	Royalton	Watson
"	17	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Moshers
Carolina Wren	7	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
* Winter Wren	30	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	31	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna (BOS)
"	31	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Eastern Bluebird	11	2	Eden	Andrle
"	15	3	Newstead	Watson
* Hermit Thrush	13F	1	Golden Hill SP	Rising
"	17	1, 1	Pomfret	Mosher, Farver
American Robin	2	100	Beaver I. SP	Lazarczyk
"	8	100	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Northern Mockingbird	20	1	Grand I.	Pawlicki et al
"	25	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
* American Pipit	25F	10	Ripley Hawkwatch	Yoerg, Henderson
* Cedar Waxwing	30	22	Eden	Andrle
* Pine Warbler	31F	1	West Falls	Betrus
* Chipping Sparrow	26F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Field Sparrow	10F	1	Wilson	Salembier
"	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Savannah Sparrow	31F	7	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
* Fox Sparrow	17F	2, 1	Pomfret	Mosher, Farver
"	22	1	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	25 - 31	1 - 3	BOS territory	Several observers
Swamp Sparrow	30F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
White-thr. Sparrow	1	2	Clarence	Watson
"	11	2	Times Beach NP	Salembier, Mitchell
"	12	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna
Lapland Longspur	17	2	Yates	Salembier, Pawlicki
Snow Bunting	17	2	Yates	Salembier
Red-w. Blackbird	3	3	South Park, Bflo.	Rew
"	3	15	Hamburg	Rew
"	4	35	South Dayton	Neveu
Eastern Meadowlark	10F	1	Wilson	Salembier
"	23	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	27	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	28	1	South Dayton	Neveu
* Rusty Blackbird	16F	3	Colden	J Landau
"	28	8	South Dayton	Neveu
"	31	24	Hartland	D'Anna (BOS)
Common Grackle	2, 3	2, 1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	12	100	Porter & Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Brown-head. Cowbird	3	32	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
"	14	3	Wilson	D'Anna
Purple Finch	4	16	Pomfret	Moshers
"	7 - 16	1 - 3	Alfred	Brooks
"	18	2	Colden	K Landau
"	26	2	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	29	1	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
"	30	1	Tifft NP	Sharon

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**107**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**029**

**Total for the year 2007:**

**136**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

# NYC Audubon Comments to FCC on Bird Collisions with Communication Towers

by Karen Cotton

This article and photo were originally published at the NYC Audubon website (<http://www.nycaudubon.org/>). Blackpoll Warbler photo by Steve Nanz.



Millions of migratory birds die at more than 90,000 lighted towers across the country every spring and fall. On January 18, 2007, NYC Audubon submitted comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding these collisions with communication towers. NYC Audubon urged the FCC to adopt regulations developed by Communication Tower Working Group to help reduce and prevent these collisions.

The Working Group is a consortium of federal agencies; the telecommunication, broadcasting and tower industries; scientists and conservation agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs); private consulting firms; and other stakeholders. Current efforts include establishing research strategies that will quantify risk factors and lead to mitigation measures that will reduce mortality. The USFWS now has voluntary siting and technical guidelines for communication towers and wind turbines that were issued in September, 2000.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Migratory Bird Management first focused in detail on the growing problem of bird collisions with communication towers after 5,000- 10,000 Lapland Longspurs and other songbird species were killed in a single night at 3 towers in western Kansas in 1998.

This tragedy focused attention on the issue of migratory bird kills and prompted the USFWS to take several proactive steps in an attempt to prevent similar disasters, including convening and chairing the Communication Tower Working Group in 1999.

On Nov. 3, 2006, the FCC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM), soliciting comments to determine what impact the structures have on migratory birds, whether tower lighting and guy wire regulations need to be modified, and if the FCC needs to adopt more stringent standards for environmental assessments of proposed tower sites to incorporate bird-safety (full account of comments can be read at <http://www.nycaudubon.org/home/FCC.txt>).

# Lineage of Junkin's Warbler

by Irby Lovette.

In the July, 2006 Prothonotary (vol. 7, p. 64), David Junkin reported on a "mystery" warbler that was trapped and photographed at his bird banding station in Wethersfeld, NY. The bird was thought to be a hybrid between two unknown warbler species. The parentage of this hybrid has recently been resolved using molecular methods and below are highlights of those findings. More information is at [www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/mystery](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/mystery).

All birds, like all humans, inherit some of their DNA from their mothers and some from their fathers. Depending on the type of DNA, however, the pattern of inheritance can differ, and we can use these differences to our advantage to determine which two species interbred to produce a hybrid individual like the Junkin's warbler.

Lab scientist Amanda Talaba [Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology] started by extracting DNA from a single feather plucked from the bird when it was captured [by David Junkin in Wethersfeld, NY. Extracting DNA is a fairly straightforward process, and even one feather usually has ample DNA for lots of molecular tests.

Once she had the DNA purified, Amanda used a process called the Polymerase Chain Reaction to copy short and very specific regions of the bird's DNA. This copying process is necessary to give us enough of the target DNA to determine the DNA's sequence, the series of chemical building-blocks that varies among species. As part of a different project, we had already sequenced a number of genes from every one of the world's more than 100 wood-warbler species, so to identify the parents of Junkin's warbler, all Amanda had to do was sequence its own corresponding genes and compare those sequences to our existing warbler gene database.

To determine the mother, Amanda sequenced a gene encoded in the mitochondrial DNA. This type of DNA is unusual in that it is passed only from mothers to their offspring; fathers don't make any contribution at all to the next generation. It also is highly variable among species, so much so that mitochondrial DNA has been used in hundreds of studies of bird evolution. The mitochondrial DNA sequence from the Junkin's warbler individual was a perfect match to sequences we had obtained previously from Kentucky Warblers (*Oporornis formosus*), and quite different from sequences of all other warbler species.

To determine the father, Amanda sequenced part of a gene from the bird's nuclear genome. Nuclear genes come in pairs in birds: one copy from the mother, one from the father. The sequence of one copy of this gene in Junkin's warbler matched the database sequences of Kentucky Warbler, just as expected based on the mitochondrial DNA evidence. The other copy, the one that must have come from the father, matched the database sequences of Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphica*). Mystery solved.

To our knowledge, this is the first recorded hybridization between these two warbler species.

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## **BOS website**



**Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**June 1-3: Friday-Sunday.** Allegany Nature Pilgrimage. For more information or to register visit [www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org](http://www.alleganynaturepilgrimage.org)

**June 8: Friday. Canadian Whip-poor-will Trip and Chinese Dinner.** Meet at Vermont and Busti at 6:00 PM. Dinner at Lotus Garden Restaurant (182 West Street - west bank of Welland Canal, Port Colborne, Ontario). Then we will go to Wilson Road, four miles west of town. Reservations will be appreciated. Leader: Bill Burch (773-3690).

**June 13: Wednesday. The Annual June Picnic** will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve. A short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve will follow. Bring your own food and eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

**July 24, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.**  
Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 5 May, 2007

### THE MONTH: April

*Bill Watson*

**The Weather:** The average temperature was 42.5 °F (2.8 °F below normal) making it the coldest April in ten years. From April 5<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> the average temperature was nine degrees below normal, with four consecutive days of subfreezing temperatures (on the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>) tying 1982 as the longest such April stretch ever! This abnormal cold spell had a devastating effect on early insectivorous passerines. Paul Hess, the Wildlife Biologist at Iroquois NWR, reports that Carl Zenger, the volunteer that maintains the bluebird boxes, "found a total of 233 dead tree swallows between" the 10th and 18th. That number includes 112 birds from the refuge and 121 from the neighboring state WMA's." Most of the birds (216) were found in their boxes on the 10th and 11th.

The last eleven days of the month were two degrees warmer than average and local birders were able to find Blue-winged, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Pine, Palm, and Black-and-white Warblers, as well as Louisiana Waterthrush. So despite the cold weather and vegetation being delayed about a week at month's end, these ten April warbler species were only a little short of our 10.4 warblers/April average. This is a tribute to the BOS members who made a fine effort to find early migrants at the end of April.

Precipitation was a near average 2.96 inches (only 0.08 inches less than normal). With April's 2.3 inches, the seasonal snowfall finished at 88.9 inches at the airport. This is

about eight inches below normal. Sunshine was only 37% of the possible making this month the cloudiest April in eleven years. In conclusion, the month was on average, cold and gloomy.

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This April only 14 verification reports were received. Compare this to the 58 verification reports that were received in April 2001, when I first started writing the April month articles. What has caused this drastic reduction in verification reports? Yes, April 2001 was warmer than this April, but that cannot explain why the verification reports plummeted from 58 to only 10. More likely are recent changes in the 2007 revision of the Verification Date Guide, that expanded no-writeup date ranges for several species.

**Early arrivals:** In recent Aprils there would be about fifteen verification reports of early arrivals to talk about each month, so it feels a little strange having only three to discuss this year. On the BOS April 15 Count, an all blue bird with darker wings and tail and a light colored bill was seen by Richard Byron and three other people. This earliest ever Indigo Bunting was singing on the utility wire on the



*Black-crowned Night-Heron nestlings and eggs photographed by Bill Watson on April 23, 2007 on their nest. The island rookery is located above Horseshoe Falls on the Niagara River (see Bill's article on page 35 for additional details of the colony survey).*

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Please mail correspondence to:

Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrlé  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

**Society Officers:**

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west side of the road just before the entrance to Morgan's Point. Another early Indigo Bunting first observed April 26<sup>th</sup> at Karen and Jim Landau's feeder in Colden, New York, is now our second earliest Indigo Bunting record.

Although there is an undocumented report of an Indigo Bunting on April 30, 1946, (Beardslee and Mitchell 1965) the above records are the first documented for Indigo Bunting in April. In the BOS Noteworthy Database, which contains all the Noteworthy records since 1963, the earliest Indigo Bunting is on May 1<sup>st</sup>, which make this year's sightings all the more remarkable.

At Audubon's "Iroquois Observations" on Saturday April 7<sup>th</sup> an extraordinarily early pair of Common Moorhen was seen by many, and documented by Mike Galas and Jerry Lazarczyk. In his report Mike discussed the "red shield and bill" and the characteristic plumage of the birds. Jerry compared the size to a small chicken. Like the Indigo Bunting this is the earliest arrival date of any Common Moorhen in the Buffalo Ornithological Society records. Although there is a report of a pair of this species at Tifft Street Marsh in the winter of 1946-1947, the previous earliest report was by Holmes on April 8, 1995 in East Aurora.

**Rare Birds:** Of the 52 documented records of Golden Eagle between 1964 and 2005 inclusively, exactly half have occurred in this month and of these half again occurred from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> – an optimal window of time to search for Golden Eagle at the Hamburg or Ripley Hawk Watches. The Golden Eagle seen by Fran Rew at the Hamburg Hawk Watch on April 3<sup>rd</sup> is the earliest ever for April. The previous early date for April was on the 7<sup>th</sup> in 1976 and 1993.

Although fairly common from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, American Golden-Plover is very rare in spring. The plover documented by Mike Zebehazy and photographed by Linda McElvany clearly had black under tail coverts, which ruled out any possibility of this bird being a Black-

bellied Plover. Like Golden Eagles, spring American Golden-Plovers are most likely to be seen in the month of April.

Separating the Dark-eyed Junco subspecies can be difficult due to their subtle plumage differences, sexual dimorphism and relatively common hybridization. Thus writing a verification report for a suspected female *Junco hyemalis oreganus* or "Oregon Junco" could be as problematical as writing a verification report for a Thayer's Gull. In his report (which included a photograph) Willie D'Anna noted that it differed from other juncos "in the following respects: the gray hood showed a strongly convex shape on the breast; the back was brownish with a slight reddish tone and with inconspicuous darker streaks; the hood contrasted well with the back; the flanks showed a strong wash of brownish orange." There are only three later spring records of "Oregon Junco" than this April 6<sup>th</sup> record from the Town of Wilson.

Perhaps the rarest species this April was the Western Meadowlark, requiring written verifications for the Buffalo Ornithological Society and New York State Avian Records Committee. Four of the ten written verification reports received by the statisticians were for this species. Alerted to its presence by Len DiFrancisco and Gil Randell, Tim Baird was the first to document the meadowlark on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Willie D'Anna, Jim Pawlicki, and I documented it on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-eight of the 52 records of this species occurred in May and June. This is the first April Western Meadowlark recorded since 1969.

The April 15<sup>th</sup> Bird Count produced three very rare birds. The female Barrow's Goldeneye found in the Niagara River just south of Mill Road in Fort Erie was well documented by Brian Lewandowski. This is the latest ever spring record of Barrow's Goldeneye in the BOS study area. The previous latest ever record was of two birds that stayed at Point Abino until April 6, 1993. At Mohawk Point two Eared Grebes with "solid black necks" and "golden red" auricle plumes were found by Marg Partridge. This is the first time that a pair has been found in spring migration, and since 1963 it is the fourth occurrence of this species in April. A Barnacle Goose of questionable origin was found in Section 1 by Lynne Landon and Terry Yonker.

Although they did not require written documentation, there were several other exceptional observations in the month. The five Greater White-fronted Geese observed April 7<sup>th</sup> are the third highest ever found in spring at one location. The Cackling Goose found at Iroquois NWR on the 7<sup>th</sup> is our only April record of this species. The Eurasian Wigeon ends a six-year drought of documented sightings of this species in April and is the first ever found in the Town of Alexander.

**Unusually High Numbers:** In this month's Noteworthy Records unusually high numbers of birds seen by a single observer or party are underlined. See preamble to Noteworthy records, on page 37, for reporting unusually high counts for a species. The 5000 Red-breasted Mergansers at Buffalo Harbor on the 21<sup>st</sup> are the third highest number in the

BOS archives. The 294 Black-crowned Night-Herons at Niagara Falls, Ontario, betters the previous high count by a single observer of 118 seen at the same location on April 16, 1989. Willie D'Anna had very impressive numbers on the Lake Ontario Plains with 139 Wilson's Snipe (second highest ever) and 3465 Dark-eyed Juncos. During the Fox Sparrow invasion of April-2007, he observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> a record high 31 Fox Sparrows in Porter and Wilson. The previous high for April was eight. The previous all time high was 20 on November 1-10, 1966 at a feeder on Rosehill Road in Fort Erie.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information and suggestions in the writing of The Month.

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## Great Egret Banding at Motor Island –

JUL 17 2007

June 13, 2007

by Bill Watson

On June 13, 2007, twenty-five nestling Great Egrets were color banded at the heron colony on Motor Island in the Niagara River. The banding and survey team consisted of Dr. Chip Weseloh, Dr. David Moore and Clive Hodden from the Canadian Wildlife Service – Ontario Region, Connie Adams and Tom Summerville from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Mark Schlacter and myself representing the Buffalo Ornithological Society. This year we broke into two groups – one banded nestling egrets while the other surveyed for adults with red leg bands.

Nestling Great Egrets were captured and banded in the following manner. Nests were accessed using a standard extension ladder, the nestlings were captured by hand and placed in a bucket, and then carried down the ladder to the bander, Chip Weseloh. He placed RED BANDS WITH WHITE LETTER-NUMBERS ABOVE THE "KNEE" OF THE LEFT LEG AND THE TRADITIONAL ALUMINUM BAND ABOVE THE "ANKLE" OF THE RIGHT LEG. (see photos on next page). The purpose of the net is to keep the little egrets from running away. The egrets observed in the photos are exceptionally young and relatively immobile, however older ones can run very fast on the ground and through the tree tops. After the birds were banded they were put back in the bucket, carried up the ladder and returned to the nest unharmed.

The purpose of this banding study is to help answer a number of questions centered on the Motor Island colony and/or on Great Egret dispersal in general. (1) *What is the dispersal pattern(s) for the Motor Island Great Egrets?* (2) *Do young Motor Island Great Egrets migrate toward the Mississippi Valley, the Atlantic Coast or neither?* Answers to these questions may help identify the population that colonized the Motor Island rookery. (3) *Do egrets migrate as family units, individuals or heterogeneous groups?* (4) *If they migrate as heterogeneous groups how and when do the groups form?*

To help track these bird's movement, I'm asking for birders to report Great Egrets having RED BANDS WITH WHITE LETTER-NUMBERS ABOVE THE "KNEE" OF THE LEFT LEG AND THE TRADITIONAL ALUMINUM BAND ABOVE THE "ANKLE" OF THE RIGHT LEG. The band code on the red band can usually be read with a spotting scope as the letter-numbers are nearly an inch high. In addition to the 25 egrets banded at Motor Island, 125 nestling Great Egrets were banded in a similar manner at Georgian Bay this June. Thus all banded birds are not necessarily from the Motor Island colony, reinforcing the need to read the letter/number code if possible.

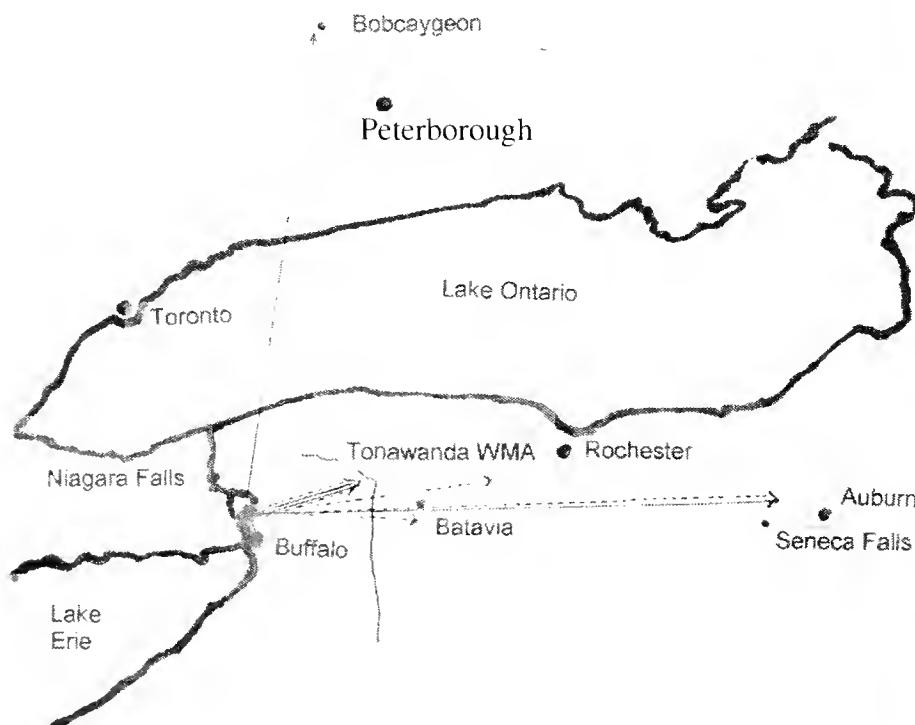
If you find Great Egrets with these bands, please record the date, location, number of other egrets with them, and, if possible, the letter(s) and number(s) of the banding code and report them to one of the three persons listed at the end

of this article. If you see one of the color banded Great Egrets and are unable to read the code, do not hesitate to call me and I will offer my assistance.

The oldest of the Great Egret nestlings should start fledging near the beginning of July. Please look for the above bands on birds anywhere in the BOS region, but especially near the Niagara River. Last summer our first report of a dispersed Motor Island fledgling was on July 24<sup>th</sup> at Bobcaygeon, Ontario, which is north-northwest of Peterborough and 115 miles (190 km) north-northeast of Motor Island (see map below). In the past, most of the banded Motor Island Great Egrets have been relocated in New York State between the Niagara River and Montezuma NWR. Smaller numbers have been relocated on the north and south shores of Lake Erie (*e.g.*, Ohio at Conneaut Harbor).

Last summer (2006) birders were very successful at finding Great Egrets with RED LEG BANDS. Between 30 and 32 observations of banded egrets were made, and I would like to personally thank Jim Pawlicki, Bob and Mary Hartley, Mike McNulty, Fred Arnold, Frank McClain, Brenda Best, Peter Carter, Richard and Christine Salembier, David Moore, Chip Weseloh, Bob Spahn, and Doug Beattie for their reports. Of the eight egrets that had their band codes successfully read, five were banded on Motor Island in June 2006, while three more were banded that year on Nottawasaga Island in Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. All five of the Motor Island birds were found east of Motor Island (see figure below).

The dispersal pattern is biased toward a eastward direction as shown in the figure. Many of the egrets show a very



Sketch showing Great Egret nestling dispersal vectors from the Motor Island rookery in 2006. Solid lines indicate Motor Island birds (4; numbers on red bands determined) and dashed lines are inferred Motor Island birds (4; red bands were observed but numbers not read). Most vectors represent one bird. Several birds were also observed at Tifft NP (3-4) and those vectors are not resolved in the diagram. Three other datum points (red bands observed but not numbers) from birds at Luther Marsh and Rattray Marsh in Ontario are not included. Sketch by Bill Watson.

similar eastward trajectory from the Motor Island colony while only one bird was found northward. The data are few at this stage and more observations are needed before stronger conclusions can be made. This eastward dispersal bias suggests the Motor Island birds originally belonged to the Atlantic instead of the Mississippi populations.

D. V. Chip Weseloh  
Canadian Wildlife Service-Ontario Region  
4905 Dufferin St.  
Downsview, Ontario  
M3H 5T4  
Phone: 416-739-5846  
email: chip.weseloh@ec.gc.ca.

Connie Adams  
NYSDEC  
270 Michigan Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14203  
Phone (716) 851-7010  
email: cmadams@gw.dec.state.ny.us

William Watson  
771 Fletcher Street  
Tonawanda, NY 14150  
Phone (716) 695-2820  
email: williamwatsonsr@aol.com



Photographs of the Great Egret banding operation on Motor Island taken by Bill Watson on June 13, 2007.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fr. Goose	4 - 7	4	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Seamans (BOS)
"	7	5	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki,Lazarczyk et al
Cackling Goose	7	4	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
Tundra Swan	23	4	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Eurasian Wigeon	17	1 male	Alexander	Dart,Beattie,Lazarczyk
American Wigeon	23	165	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Blue-winged Teal	3	4	Lewiston	D'Anna
"	7	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
Northern Shoveler	8	10	Alexander	Beattie
"	23	46	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Pintail	19	2	Batavia	Beattie, Lazarczyk
Ring-necked Duck	7; 26	22; 14	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson
"	11	50	Bethany	Beattie
"	14	76	Batavia	Beattie
Lesser Scaup	7	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
Surf Scoter	7; 8	1; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
"	25	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
White-winged Scoter	7; 8	1; 8	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
"	8	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Black Scoter	21	2	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
Red-br. Merganser	21; 26	<u>5000; 4700</u>	Buffalo Harbor	Salembier; Watson
Ruddy Duck	1	6	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	11	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	12;14;23	20; 8; 62	Iroquois NWR	Hess; Salembier; Watson
Common Loon	8	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson; Neveu
"	11	10	Allegany SP	Baird
"	15	8	Bear Lake	Mosher, Farver
Horned Grebe	7; 8	35; 41	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Watson
Red-necked Grebe	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
D.-crested Cormorant	8, 29	645, 500	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	20	27	Eden	Andrle
* American Bittern	1F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23;27	1;1	Iroquois NWR	Watson; Galas, Rising
Great Blue Heron	18	69 + 54 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	4	5	Grand I.	Pawlicki
"	6	3 + 2 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	10	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Great Egret	19	1	Alexander	Lazarczyk, Beattie
"	22	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
Green Heron	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	4	Tifft NP	Salembier
Black-cr. Night-Heron	6,13	109, 48	Motor I.	Watson
"	7	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18	49 + 19 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	23	<u>274</u> ad + 214 n + Niagara Falls (Ont)		Watson
		20 yg + 724 eggs		
Osprey	1	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	1	2 + n	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	19	15	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
Bald Eagle	1	2 + n	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	2	Navy I.	Pawlicki
"	6	2	Alexander	Beattie
"	14	2 ad+2 imm	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	22	3 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	23	2 + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	28	5 imm+1 ad	Ripley	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	29	10	Ripley Hawkwatch	Watson et al
Northern Goshawk	21	1	Lyndonville	D'Anna et al
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	1	Alfred	Brooks
* Broad-winged Hawk	16F	1	Eden	Andrle
"	21	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	23	151	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	29	<u>1000</u>	Ripley	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	29	<u>776</u>	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Yoerg et al
Rough-legged Hawk	10	3	Lockport	Pawlicki
"	15	2	Arcade	J Landau
"	29	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Yoerg et al
* Golden Eagle	3	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Rew
Merlin	6	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	10 - 30	2 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	4	1	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
"	23	1	Motor I.	Watson
"	28	1 ad	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Light et al
* Virginia Rail	6F	1	Sinking Ponds NP	Holmes
Sora	22F; 23	1;1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier; Watson
* Common Moorhen	<u>7F</u>	2	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Lazarczyk et al
American Coot	23	<u>265</u>	Iroquois NWR	Watson
* Amer. Golden-Plover	<u>25</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy, McElvany (photo)
Greater Yellowlegs	1	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	2	Alexander	Dart
"	25	60	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Lesser Yellowlegs	8	1	Dunkirk Airport	Watson, Pawlicki
"	25	6	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
* Solitary Sandpiper	22F	1	Albion	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
"	28	1	Newstead	Pawlicki
Spotted Sandpiper	25	4	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
* Least Sandpiper	25F	1	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Pectoral Sandpiper	25	4	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Purple Sandpiper	9	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
Dunlin	25F	7	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Wilson's Snipe	6, 7	13, 13	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	8	<u>139</u>	Wilson to Yates	D'Anna, Potter
American Woodcock	2	2	Joseph Davis SP	Landon
"	14	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki et al
"	14	1	Alfred	Brooks
Little Gull	4 - 28	3	Buffalo	Galas
"	8	5	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9	4	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	12	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Iceland Gull	7; 17	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu; Moshers
"	8; 29	2; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlick (8+29); D'Anna (29)
Lesser Black-b. Gull	8; 29	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Pawlick (8+29); D'Anna (29)
Glaucous Gull	29	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Watson
Caspian Tern	7, 29	2, 131	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	8, 29	2, 96	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	20	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
* Common Tern	8	2	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg
"	10	6	Dunkirk Harbor	D'Anna
"	12	3	Lancaster	Morgante
* Forster's Tern	23	1	E. side of Grand I.	Sharon
Long-eared Owl	10	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	24	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Short-eared Owl	10	4	Lockport	Pawlicki, Mielke
* Chimney Swift	22F	1	Hamburg	J Landau
"	23	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Yellow-b. Sapsucker	8F	2	Ellicottville	Lazarczyk, Rising
"	14	8	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Least Flycatcher	27F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Galas, Rising
* Eastern Kingbird	27F	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Northern Shrike	8L	1	Somerset	Potter, D'Anna
Blue-headed Vireo	23	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	26	1	Eden	Andrle
* Warbling Vireo	28F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	11	1	Darien	Lazarczyk
"	11	1	Salamanca	Baird
"	19	1	Alfred	Brooks
* Purple Martin	22F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	1	Ripley	D'Anna, Watson, Pawlicki
"	29	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Tree Swallow	5	200	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
N. Rough-w. Swallow	21F	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	21F	8	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	21F	5	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	22	4	Sheridan	Neveu
* Bank Swallow	25F	3	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
* Cliff Swallow	25F	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Barn Swallow	21	1	Andover	Brooks
"	21	4	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Carolina Wren	22, 29	2, 3	Mouth of Cattaraugus Creek	Neveu
* House Wren	26F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	26F	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	26F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	27	1	Sheridan	Neveu
Winter Wren	9	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	14	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	21	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	22	4	Sheridan	Neveu
"	29	5	Tifft NP	Salembier
* Marsh Wren	28F	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Golden-cr. Kinglet	22, 27	6, 9	Sheridan	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5F	1	BOS NP	Lazarczyk
"	7	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	24, 27	10, 30	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	22F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	26	4	Tiffet NP	Watson
Eastern Bluebird	1	6	Tillman WMA	Salembier
"	12	2	Bethany	Beattie
Hermit Thrush	3	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Sharon
"	3	2	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	5	1	Alexander	Dart
"	21; 26	7; 2	Tiffet NP	Salembier; Watson
"	22	5	Sheridan	Neveu
* Wood Thrush	28F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Gray Catbird	21F	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
Gray Catbird	28	1	Porter	D'Anna, Potter
Northern Mockingbird	7	1	Tiffet NP	Salembier
* Brown Thrasher	11F	1	Tiffet NP	Sharon
"	21	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
American Pipit	5, 6	21, 11	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	8	9	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Potter
* Blue-winged Warbler	29F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Neveu et al
* Nashville Warbler	27F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Wilson	Potter
* Yellow Warbler	28F	3	Orchard Park	Morgante
* Yellow-r. Warbler	8F	1	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	25F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Ripley	D'Anna et al
* Blackburnian Warbler	26F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Warbler	19F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	20	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	22	5	Sheridan	Neveu
"	29	5	Ripley	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
* Palm Warbler	17F, 18	1, 1	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	24	1	Wilson	Potter, Pawlicki
"	24	3	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Black-and-white Warb.	27F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	1	Ripley	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
* La. Waterthrush	25F	1	Allegany SP	Baird
* Eastern Towhee	4F	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	5	1	Colden	K Landau
"	8, 14; 26	1, 3; 5	Tiffet NP	Salembier; Watson
"	15, 18	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Amer. Tree Sparrow	15, 21L	5, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Chipping Sparrow	2	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	5	2	Williamsville	Salembier
"	5	1	Alfred	Brooks
Field Sparrow	1	6	Tillman WMA	Salembier
* Vesper Sparrow	2F	2	Hamburg	Pawlicki, Zebehazy
"	5, 8	2, 5	Pomfret (f)	Moshers
"	7	1	Dunkirk Airport	Neveu
"	8	6	Somerset & Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	9	2	Porter	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	13	3	Pomfret	Mosher

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Savannah Sparrow	2	2	Hamburg	Pawlicki
"	5	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	14	10	Batavia	Dart, Beattie
Fox Sparrow	5 - 8	2	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
"	5, 8-11	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
Fox Sparrow	7	<u>31</u>	Porter & Wilson	D'Anna
"	8	<u>14</u>	Wilson (f)	D'Anna
"	14	<u>11</u>	Tifft NP	Salembier
White-thr. Sparrow	11F	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	21	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	26	12	Tifft NP	Watson
"	29	15	Niagara Falls (f)	Roberson
White-cr. Sparrow	29F	2	Sheridan	Neveu
"	30	3	Times Beach NP	Hess
"	30	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	30	2	Depew	Morgante
"	30	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
Dark-eyed Junco	8	<u>3465</u>	Wilson to Yates	D'Anna, Potter
* Dark-eyed Junco <i>J. h. oreganus</i>	6, 9	1	Wilson (f)	D'Anna et al
* Rose-br. Grosbeak	24F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	27	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Indigo Bunting	<u>26F - 28</u>	1	Colden	K Landau
* <u>Western Meadowlark</u>	22	1	Ripley	Baird
"	29	1	Ripley	Pawlicki, Watson, D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	1	5	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Baltimore Oriole	30F	1	Colden	J Landau
"	30F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
* Pine Siskin	24	1	Wilson (f)	Potter

Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year: **136**

Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month (40) and April Count (13): **053**

Total for the year 2007: **189**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

# Report of the 2007 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 15, 2007

Weather: Terry Yonker, Compiler: Mike Hamilton

## Weather Synopsis

During the count, weather varied significantly from the northwest to southeast within the Buffalo Ornithological Society study area. A deep low pressure center moving up the east coast along a potent cold front began to affect the count area by midnight spreading westward during the day. New York Sections to the south and east were cloudy with frequent periods of rain, snow, fog, and mist, while Ontario sections to the north and west experienced variable conditions with less precipitation. The entire study area experienced unseasonably cold temperatures and increasing winds with strong gusts from the north and northeast, especially in the afternoon. Count day contrasted significantly with the previous day and evening when skies were partly cloudy with moderate temperatures and light winds that shifted from the southwest to the northeast.

### Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 6:35 AM EDT      Sunset: 7:57 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	35°F	31°F	1012.3 mb	NE 10 mph	
3:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	32	32	1009.6	NE 13	
6:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	32	32	1007.4	NE 16	
9:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	33	33	1006.9	NE 14	
12:00 pm	Cloudy/Lt Snow/Fog/Mist	33	33	1006.6	N 16/G 24	Coastal Low-Long Island
3:00 pm	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Snow/Fog/Mist	34	34	1004.9	N 14/G 20	
6:00 pm	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Fog/Mist	35	35	1004.6	N 12/G 24	
9:00 pm	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Snow	36	36	1004.0	N 14/G 25	
12:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Snow/Fog/Mist	36	36	1002.1	N 16/G 23	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

#### G e e s e - H e r o n s

Canada Goose	13,131		Common Goldeneye	367
* <b>Barnacle Goose</b> (origin unknown)	1	(1)	* <b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>	1 (8)
Mute Swan (adults)	12		Hooded Merganser	252
Wood Duck	351		Common Merganser	487
Gadwall	197		Red-breasted Merganser	9,171
American Wigeon	604		Ruddy Duck	291
American Black Duck	40		unspecified ducks	1 (5)
Mallard	1,105		unspecified waterfowl	2 (17)
Blue-winged Teal	78		Ring-necked Pheasant	23
Northern Shoveler	128		Ruffed Grouse	10
Northern Pintail	143	(3,4)	Wild Turkey	340
Green-winged Teal	197		Red-throated Loon	1 (4)
Canvasback	290		Common Loon	157
Redhead	146		Pied-billed Grebe	108
Ring-necked Duck	1,379		Horned Grebe	193
Greater Scaup	438		Red-necked Grebe	31
Lesser Scaup	998		* <b>Eared Grebe</b>	2 (7)
unspecified scaup	277		Double-crested Cormorant	4,054
Surf Scoter	4	(4,20)	Great Blue Heron	495
White-winged Scoter	50		Great Egret	22
unspecified scoters	2	(4)	* <b>Green Heron</b>	F 2 (12,18)
Long-tailed Duck	2,461		Black-crowned Night-Heron	93 (2,9,11)
Bufflehead	2,754			

#### V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s

Bald Eagle	19	American Kestrel	118
Northern Harrier	38	Merlin	5 (11,20)
Sharp-shinned Hawk	19	Peregrine Falcon	4 (9,11)
Cooper's Hawk	29	unspecified hawks	4 (20)
unspecified accipiters	2 (8,17)	Virginia Rail	5 (3,9,12)
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	* Sora	F 1 (6)
Red-tailed Hawk	174	American Coot	140
Rough-legged Hawk	13	Sandhill Crane	4 (6,22)

#### Plovers - Terns

Killdeer	332	Ring-billed Gull	31,030
Greater Yellowlegs	69	Herring Gull	1,831
Lesser Yellowlegs	18 (13,23)	Iceland Gull	4 (11,20)
* Spotted Sandpiper	F 1 (18)	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2 (2,3)
* Dunlin	F 1 (4)	Glaucous Gull	1 (4)
Wilson's Snipe	341	Great Black-backed Gull	300
American Woodcock	10	unspecified gulls	707 (20,21)
Little Gull	22 (3,9)	Caspian Tern	25
Bonaparte's Gull	7,445	Common Tern	7 (8,9,18)

#### Pigeons - Swallows

Rock Pigeon	1,137	Eastern Phoebe	138
Mourning Dove	1,719	Northern Shrike	1 (18)
Eastern Screech-Owl	4	* Blue-headed Vireo	F 1 (18)
* Great Horned Owl	16	Blue Jay	1,321
Barred Owl	4 (8,28)	American Crow	2,480
Belted Kingfisher	74	Common Raven	6 (24,28)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	177	Horned Lark	377
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	54	Purple Martin	6 (8)
Downy Woodpecker	416	Tree Swallow	1,010
Hairy Woodpecker	138	* N. Rough-winged Swallow	F 2 (6)
Northern Flicker	614	* Barn Swallow	F 5
Pileated Woodpecker	37	unspecified swallows	1 (17)

#### Tits - Waxwings

Black-capped Chickadee	1,765	Eastern Bluebird	124
Tufted Titmouse	145	Hermit Thrush	13
Red-breasted Nuthatch	56	American Robin	9,201
White-breasted Nuthatch	241	Northern Mockingbird	10
Brown Creeper	116	Brown Thrasher	2 (13,18)
Carolina Wren	13	European Starling	18,246
Winter Wren	32	American Pipit	413
Golden-crowned Kinglet	254	Cedar Waxwing	71
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23		

#### Warblers - House Sparrows

Yellow-rumped Warbler	7	White-crowned Sparrow	46
Pine Warbler	F 1 (12)	Dark-eyed Junco	3,630
Eastern Towhee	15	<i>J. h. oreganus</i>	1
American Tree Sparrow	242	unspecified sparrow	1 (17)
Chipping Sparrow	263	Lapland Longspur	16 (4,13)
Field Sparrow	84	Northern Cardinal	844
Vesper Sparrow	30	* Indigo Bunting	1 (7)
Savannah Sparrow	144	Red-winged Blackbird	18,976
Fox Sparrow	165	Eastern Meadowlark	108
Song Sparrow	1,944	Rusty Blackbird	1,427
Swamp Sparrow	43	Common Grackle	
White-throated Sparrow	101	Brown-headed Cowbird	2,186

Purple Finch	334	* Evening Grosbeak	1 (19)
House Finch	542	House Sparrow	1,325
American Goldfinch			

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 141  
 Total individual birds observed: 165,687  
 Number of observers: 259

COMPARATIVE INFORMATION: Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, compare this year's records with those for 1998-2007 and those for 1935-2007. A chart listing totals for each species per section for 2007 is also available. In addition the following notes are added:

#### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest counts: Ave.= average of entire count period: Gadwall, 197 (2.9 x ave.); Double-crested Cormorant, 4,054 (6.3 x ave.); Virginia Rail, 5 (10.6 x ave.); Sandhill Crane, 4 (22 x ave.); Wilson's Snipe, 341 (4.9 x ave.); Little Gull, 22 (7.3 x ave.); Fox Sparrow, 165 (5.3 x ave.); American Goldfinch, 1,986 (4 x ave.).

Lowest counts: None (this is misleading as in the first count (1935) there were only 23 observers and 44 species seen).

Rare count sightings: Barnacle Goose, 1 (1<sup>st</sup> record for entire count period); Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> record; previous record was 1 in 1993); Eared Grebe, 2 (3rd record; previous records were 1 each in 2006 and 1994); "Oregon Junco" subspecies, 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> record; previously record was 1 in 1951); Indigo Bunting, 1 (1<sup>st</sup> record for entire count period).

#### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES IN LAST DECADE

Highest counts: Gadwall, 197 (2.3 x ave.); American Wigeon, 604 (2.3 x ave.); Canvasback, 290 (3.4 x ave.); Redhead, 146 (3 x ave.); Ring-necked Duck, 1,379 (1.4 x ave.); Red-breasted Merganser, 9,171 (1.7 x ave.); Common Loon, 157 (2.3 x ave.); Merlin, 5 (2.5 x ave.); Virginia Rail, 5 (2.5 x ave.); Sandhill Crane, 4 (5 x ave.); Wilson's Snipe, 341 (3.4 x ave.); Little Gull, 22 (2.2 x ave.); Iceland Gull, 4 (2 x ave.); Hairy Woodpecker, 138 (1.5 x ave.); Blue Jay, 1,321 (1.5 x ave.); Horned Lark, 377 (3.1 x ave.); Vesper Sparrow, 30 (2.5 x ave.); Fox Sparrow, 165 (2.8 x ave.); White-crowned Sparrow, 46 (2.5 x ave.); Dark-eyed Junco, 3,631 (1.6 x ave.); Red-winged Blackbird, 18,976 (1.1 x ave.); Purple Finch, 334 (1.7 x ave.); American Goldfinch, 1,986 (1.9 x ave.).

Lowest counts: Canada Goose, 13,131 (51% of ave.); Ruffed Grouse, 10 (56% of ave.); Red-throated Loon, 1 (17% of ave.); Sharp-shinned Hawk, 19 (22% of ave.); Red-tailed Hawk, 174 (52% of ave.); American Woodcock, 10 (32% of ave.); Northern Mockingbird, 10 (43% of ave.).

Rare count sightings: Barnacle Goose, 1 (1<sup>st</sup> record); Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 (1<sup>st</sup> record); Eared Grebe, 2 (2<sup>nd</sup> record; 1<sup>st</sup> was last year); Spotted Sandpiper, 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> record; 1<sup>st</sup> was 6 in 2004); Indigo Bunting, 1 (1<sup>st</sup> record).

#### NOTEABLE SPECIES AVERAGE CHANGES (entire count period / last decade):

**INCREASES:** Wood Duck, 150/342; Gadwall, 84/29; Northern Shoveler, 47/176; White-winged Scoter, 10/478; Long-tailed Duck, 1029/2609; Bufflehead, 1034/3096; Ruddy Duck, 80/380; Wild Turkey, 7/265; Red-throated Loon, 3/6; Red-necked Grebe, 35/196; Double-crested Cormorant, 207/1314; Great Blue Heron, 176/418; Great Egret, 2/11; Black-crowned Night-Heron, 49/148; Turkey Vulture, 285/1110; Osprey, 9/24; Bald Eagle, 3/12; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 30/86; Cooper's Hawk, 12/30; Broad-winged Hawk, 26/176; American Coot, 183/362; Sandhill Crane, 0/1; Greater Yellowlegs, 14/37; Lesser Yellowlegs, 5/10; Little Gull, 3/10; Bonaparte's Gull, 4561/12532; Great Black-backed Gull, 65/224; Caspian Tern, 7/35; Mourning Dove, 777/1676; Barred Owl, 3/6; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 25/114; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 24/78; Pileated Woodpecker 12/31; Eastern Phoebe, 132/270; Common Raven, 3/13; Tree Swallow, 693/1457; Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 10/49; Barn Swallow, 89/44; Tufted Titmouse, 36/145; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 23/57; Carolina Wren, 5/18; Winter Wren, 11/24; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 15/38; Hermit Thrush, 8/19; Gray Catbird, 1/3; Northern Mockingbird, 6/23; Brown Thrasher, 2/5; Yellow-rumped Warbler, 7/18; Chipping Sparrow, 53/197; Swamp Sparrow, 39/96; White-throated Sparrow, 63/150; Northern Cardinal, 388/800; Rusty Blackbird, 296/676; Purple Finch, 103/202; American Goldfinch, 487/1022; **NUMBER OF OBSERVERS**, 154/252

**DECREASES:** Tundra Swan, 92/29; American Black Duck, 278/52; Northern Pintail, 1135/376; Canvasback, 394/85; Redhead, 132/48; Greater Scaup 1276/506; Common Goldeneye, 893/346; Common Merganser, 1140/428; Ring-necked Pheasant, 88/27; Green Heron, 2/1; Pectoral Sandpiper, 47/10; Loggerhead Shrike, 3/0; American Tree Sparrow 391/178; Vesper Sparrow, 60/12; Snow Bunting, 20/3; Eastern Meadowlark, 397/140; Red Crossbill, 6/1; Common Redpoll, 117/6; Pine Siskin, 89/15; Evening Grosbeak, 473/102

#### OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold** face.):

- Section 1: Rick Gorek, Art Hannah, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
- Section 2: Brian Ahara, Paul Benham, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Maggie Smiley
- Section 3: Bill Broderick, **Willie D'Anna**, Vicki Rothman, James Rozanski, Elizabeth Wells
- Section 4: Bob Eberhart, Julie Eberhart, Leonard Gordon, Neal Gordon, Janet Hansen-Moyes, **Bill Watson**
- Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Sally Castren, Margaret Christensen, Richard Christensen, Morgan Jones, Laurie McGee, Tim McGee, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joyce Vana
- Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple

Section 7: Dave Burch, Barbara Byron, Richard Byron, **Mike Hamilton**, Jack Mansfield, Marg Partridge  
Section 8: Doug Happ, Marcia Jacklin, Richard Kajtoch, Brian N. Lewandowski, **Mike Zebehazy**  
Section 9: Pat Bogan, Tom Connare, Lewis Crowell, Dave Friedrich, Michael Galas, Dave Gordon, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Deborah Milleville, Sue O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Richard Salembier, Tim Smith  
Section 10: Edward Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **Donald Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte,  
Section 11: **Alec Humann**, Chuck Rosenberg, Norm Utech, Roberta Vallone  
Section 12: Chris Betruss, **Greg Coniglio**, Paul Fuhrmann, Wayne Gall, Linda Holmes, Mahlon Miller, Nancy Miller, Mike Morgante, Gary Nicther, Mark Nicther, Gail Seamans, Christine Sousa  
Section 13: **Doug Beattie**, Carol Britton, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Hans Kunze, Joe Salvadore, Ruth Ann Salvadore, Gail Seamans, Dana Stringham, Diane Stringham, Paula Stone, Don Thurau, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe  
Section 14: Bob Andrle, Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Erma Kern, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Patty Madigan, Sandy Radigan, Sue Saunders, Carolyn Willington  
Section 15: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak  
Section 16: Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**  
Section 17: **James Pawlicki**  
Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Barbara Henderson, Jim Landau, Peter Yoerg  
Section 19: Ron Andrews, Ruth Boon, **Doris Burton**, Dorothy Campbell, Len Campbell, Linda Cash, Faye Clancy, Art Cooper, James Fegley, Dora Lilly, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Louise Mills, Virginia Norton, Sam Norton, Sean Phelan, Teresa Rork, John Raybuck, Michael Raybuck, Carol Stonemetz, Ann Voss, Denton Willett, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson  
Section 20: Karen Brisley, Kenneth Brisley, Dick Clark, Sylvia Clarke, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenburg, Jerry Lazarczyk, Terry Mahoney, Jane McMaster, Richard Miga, Terry Mosher, David Neveu, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Audrey Schafer, Mary Sherman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft  
Julie Heilman, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Bill Seleen, **Bob Sundell**  
Section 21: Paul Baglia, Ann Beebe, Nancy Karp, Sue Lawton, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**, Sharon Walker  
Section 22: Sue Lawton, Bill O'Brien, Linda O'Brien, Ruth Lundin, Robert Petroline, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**  
Section 23: **Tim Baird**, Tom LeBlanc  
Section 24: **Tim Baird**, Jeffrey Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy  
Section 25: **Doris Burton**, Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley  
Section 26: Russell Allen, Ann Brocci, **Doris Burton**, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia, Wilma Sanford  
Section 27: Russell Allen, Charlotte Anderson, Dan Babcock, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Wayne Brewster, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Debbie Bucholz, Carol Burdick, Doris Burton, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Tina Cornell, Elsie Cushing, Karol Doty, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, John Gradoni, Pat Hulse, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Sue Lange, Woodie Lange, Kathy MacDonald, Walter Mason, Mary Ormsby, Lyle Palmiter, Thelma Palmiter, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Robert Pipal, Evelyn Ramsey, Dan Rase, Peggy Rase, Ernest Rositzke, Jim Smith, Roger Smith, Roger Smith, Sharon Smith, Maureen Soule', Wilma Taggart, Barbara Timbrook, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Mary Trouslot, Cindy Vance, Gerry Vance, Barbara Ware, Mary Lu Wells, Katie Weiman, **Suzanne Wood**

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Buffalo Museum of Science  
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Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## July – August+ Calendar

**BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

- July 29, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.
- Aug. 19, Sunday: BOS August Shorebird Count. Start at 6:30 AM.** The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu)
- Aug. 26, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.
- Oct. 5-7: New York State Ornithological Association Meeting** in Batavia, NY. The Buffalo Ornithological Society is hosting the NYSOA meeting this year. The BOS is one of 48 organizations that make up the NYSOA. All BOS members are members of NYSOA. A registration form is included with this issue of *The Prothonotary*. In addition to the fine speakers and other programs, the Annual Meeting is an opportunity to meet birders from all across New York State and we encourage all BOS members to attend. A small steering committee has been planning the meeting, but we need your help to make this conference a success, in areas from registration to field trips. If you would like to help with field trips contact Mike DeSha at 716-676-3559 or [mjdesha@ischuavalley.net](mailto:mjdesha@ischuavalley.net). To help with other areas, contact Doug Beattie at 585-343-4767 or [beattie@2ki.net](mailto:beattie@2ki.net)

# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: May

*Gerry Rising*

This May was a very pleasant month, but we birders can always find something to complain about. It was, in fact, too pleasant: temperature average 59°F, 2° above average with five days in the 80s, rainfall 0.9 inch, 2.5 inches below average with more than a tenth of an inch falling at the airport weather station on only three days, the most 0.3 inch on the 15th. And even the winds were mild: their average less than 9 mph with peaks reaching over 25 mph on only 11 days. You know what that good weather means: lots of leaves to make finding birds more difficult, desultory winds reducing hawk flights, and few of those early morning showers that cause migrant drops and big numbers of warblers.

Despite these usual complaints, it is difficult to argue that it wasn't a good month for birding. The May 20 BOS Count recorded its 3rd highest species total, 210, with the total individual count average for this decade. And, as the following lengthy list of Noteworthy Records indicates, the bird species were there for diligent birders to search out. The 15 verification reports indicate also that rarities were here in numbers. My own meager observations – I was away for much of the month – suggest only that the number of individual migrants was low. For example, this year Goat Island seemed not to attract its usual high numbers of passerines.

Here are brief notes on the reported observations; for details see the Noteworthy Records and Count summary

and analysis that follows:

Waterfowl: A nice Lake Ontario Brant flight on the 13th. My annual complaint about the virtual absence of Blue-winged Teal, a formerly common local breeder. The usual straggling divers: high counts

including 81 Long-tailed Ducks on the 7th and 111 ruddies on the 5th, 11 Red-necked Grebes on the 13th.

Cormorants and Herons: 165 cormorant nests just on Strawberry Island and 29 Great Egret nests between Strawberry and Motor Islands. Compare that number of egret nests and the 66 egrets recorded on the Count with the maximum Count number of 9 recorded before 2000; we have a pleasant incursion. Least Bittern a no show until the 29th. Four southern rarities appeared perhaps with the Great Egrets following the good weather north: Snowy Egret, Tri-colored Heron, Cattle Egret and Glossy Ibis.

Hawks: Turkey Vultures continue to dominate the skies. A Golden Eagle on the 8th best bird at the Hamburg hawk-watch (Hamburg and Ripley Hawk Watch Reports below).

Shorebirds: A Marbled Godwit drew many birders to Tonawanda WMA early in the month (see below). A Purple Sandpiper stayed just long enough off Three Sisters' Island to be recorded on the Count.



Whimbrels (above) and Marbled Godwit (right) photographed by Willie D'Anna respectively on May 26, 2007 at Rock Point Provincial Park and May 5, 2007 at Tonawanda WMA.



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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrlé  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

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taken over this region. Most warblers were reported in ones and twos; some exceptions: 250 Yellow-rumps at Fort Niagara on the 6th, also there, 8 Palms on the 7th, 10 Chestnut-sided and 15 Black-throated Blue Warblers on the 17th; 10 Prairie Warblers in Yorkshire on the 28th; 5 Pines at Lake Erie SP on the 9th; 4 Cape Mays on Beaver Island on the 10th. That rare southerner, a Yellow-throated Warbler was again found in Allegany SP. Only two Chat reports: Count Region 7 and Four Mile Creek SP two days later.

Tanagers to House Sparrow: A Clay-colored Sparrow in Count Region 20 and in Andover on the 30th. No reports of Henslow's Sparrow. A Western Meadowlark stayed for much of the early month near the Ripley Hawkwatch. And six Orchard Orioles at Rock Point PP on the 15th continues their presence there.

Having prepared these reports when there were few lists to consider, I applaud the number of birders reporting again this year. But when I contemplate the 259 Count participants, I know that there are still many more birders out there who could add to our data.

Pigeons to Swallows: Limited reports of either cuckoo species, perhaps in parallel with thankfully low numbers of tent caterpillars. A few night-hawks drifted through and a Whip-poor-will, seldom recorded in western New York, appeared at Wilson. Great news: 6 Acadian Flycatchers in Chestnut Ridge Park; I wonder if any of the picnickers appreciate these still very uncommon birds. Two Olive-sided Flycatchers: Allegany State Park on the 17th, Sinking Ponds on the 22nd.

Tits to Waxwings: A late gang of 75 Ruby-crowned Kinglets at Fort Niagara on the 3rd. A Gray-cheeked Thrush on the 19th at Arkwright, 6 on the Count (Regions 7,20 and 23) and 2 in Wilson on the 22nd.

Warblers to Sparrows: No Golden-winged or Lawrence's Warblers reported and only one Brewster's at Allegany SP on the 17th; clearly the Blue-wings have

## Hamburg Hawk Watch – 2007

Jim Landau

The hawk watch began in March, with a continuation of the harsh cold which marked the previous six weeks. The two phases of the month balanced out so that March averaged out slightly mild and a bit dry. Lake Erie started the month completely frozen and remained so through mid-month. The warm-up during the last week cleared ice from the western and central basins, but the eastern basin, where we are located, maintained substantially ice filled.

Nonetheless March produced our highest number of raptors, dominated by those ubiquitous Turkey Vultures that have come to be such a dominant species at many spring watches in the Northeast. When this dramatic northward species expansion might level off is still a frequent topic of speculative conversation. Noteworthy this month were the twelve Osprey recorded, a species not ordinarily seen until April. Coopers Hawks got off to a slow start in March, but finished the season about par for this species.

After the promising mild spell in late March extended over into the first few days of April, the pattern changed abruptly and gave us some of the coldest April weather in memory during the next two weeks as a deep upper low set up across Eastern North America. Overall, April was the coolest in ten years and cloudiest in eleven, due to the prevailing southwest winds off cold Lake Erie. The lake ice melted slowly, and it took until the 29th before the eastern end and harbor were ice free, about two weeks later than the usual date of 16 April.

Hamburg Hawk Watch is quite close to the shore of Lake Erie and the lake has a strong influence on hawk migration. This can be the case even when warm, sunny weather is generating thermal activity inland, to the east of the watch. As the heated updrafts draw colder, heavier lake air, it will routinely create a chilly, sometimes foggy microclimate at the watch. This may help to explain the unimpressive showing of adult Broad-winged Hawks this April. Taking a look at the numbers from Braddock Bay, a bit farther to the north and east of Hamburg, and from Derby Hill, even further along the traditional migration route, it is evident that this thermal-loving species tends to skirt our watch. The other species tallies were about as expected for the month, with all three Northern Goshawks of the season logged on 29 April.

May was very consistent in its weather throughout the month. Sunshine and mild temperatures were the rule, and winds were relatively light. In fact, the 84 percent of possible sunshine made this the sunniest May ever recorded in the 117 years of record. The only real rain of the month was on 15-16<sup>th</sup>, with the final ten days seeing a return to near full sunshine but warmer temperatures. This allowed for a few days of hawk tallies beyond our usual "official end date" of 15 May. While there were some good May daily tallies, our perennial hope of a strong immature Broad-winged Hawk flight went largely unrealized.

Accipiters, buteos, falcons and eagles were all off in overall numbers, although not alarmingly so. Bald Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks both ended the season with poor numbers, at about half of their recent trends. While Rough-legged numbers can perhaps be explained away due to seasonal fluctuations in prey abundance and snow cover, the drop in eagle sightings is a bit more puzzling. Taking into account the encouraging news of their breeding successes and overall rise in numbers, this season's total of twenty-eight Bald Eagles (our lowest count in five years) leaves us scratching our heads.

	hours	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	TOTAL
<b>March</b>	140.00	5798	12	10	15	70	35	0	222	0	584	14	0	26	0	2	18	<b>6806</b>
<b>April</b>	139.47	2846	89	11	21	263	67	3	12	1373	283	7	1	25	5	1	30	<b>5037</b>
<b>May</b>	86.50	682	9	7	3	77	17	0	0	202	148	0	1	0	1	3	17	<b>1167</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>365.97</b>	<b>9326</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>1575</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>13010</b>

Fifty three non-raptor species were also reported this season, highlighted by Horned Grebe, Sandhill Crane, Wild Turkey, all six local swallow species, Brown Thrasher, Blue-winged Warbler, and Vesper Sparrow.

We closed out our spring season with the satisfaction of a job well done, and time well spent. We have had the singular pleasure of spending some quality time with our heads in the clouds, in the company of those most majestic of birds, the raptors.

Any hawk watch that relies on volunteer coverage has a long list of people to thank and Hamburg is no exception. The coordinator gratefully acknowledges our "Hawk Watch Heroes," (Bruce Chilton, Mike Hamilton, Fran Rew, Bill Watson and Mike Zebehazy). This watch would not exist if not for their considerable commitment of time and effort, week in and week out. Thanks are also due to the "Camp Road Irregulars," (Connie Adams, Bob Andrlle, Chris Betrus, Lewis Crowell, Bob and Donna Deleon, Dave Feliciano, Doug Happ, Sarah Lazazzero, Sandy Radigan, and Paul and Nancy Vigyikan) who filled in the gaps in coverage as our official counters. Additionally, many birders and friends stopped by throughout the spring to witness the migration and help with the count. Their sharp eyes, superior identification skills and good conversation are always a welcome addition. Weather summaries for this report were obtained from the National Weather Service in Buffalo. Anyone with suggestions, questions or comments regarding this year's watch are asked to please contact Jim Landau at 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033, by phone at (716) 941-3869, or by e-mail: [kjlandau@localnet.com](mailto:kjlandau@localnet.com)

## Ripley Hawk Watch – Spring 2007

*Gil Randell*

The Ripley Hawk Watch (RHW) is located on the south shore of Lake Erie, about 60 miles southwest of Buffalo, NY. The watch consists of five main sites located between the lakeshore and the top of the escarpment, which is about

three miles south of the lakeshore. Each site has certain advantages associated with different weather and wind conditions. If conditions warrant and the watch has sufficient manpower, several sites can be worked at one time. Mobile radios supplied by the Roger Tory Peterson Institute allow coordination between different sites and help avoid duplication of counts.

After a mild beginning to the winter of 2006-2007, including a Christmas without snow, the latter half of January and most of February were consistently cold and

snowy. Warmer weather in late February and early March allowed a count to be taken on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, with the watch opening for the season on March 11th. A magnificent flight of over 2,700 birds, including over 2,400 Turkey Vultures, occurred on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Cold, snowy weather dominated the beginning of April with blustery snow storms closing the watch entirely for five days. Ice did not leave the southern shore of Lake Erie until April 11<sup>th</sup>, exactly a month later than last year. Cold weather down into Texas and Florida combined with our cold weather to slow the advance of the season until later in April and into May. May 2<sup>nd</sup> saw the beginning of a prolonged high-pressure system, a seven-day string of beautiful spring days with the difficult cloudless skies we know as "killer-blue-skies." Then rainy days alternated with days of more clear blue skies until the watch closed May 15<sup>th</sup>, making May an altogether challenging month.

Despite nearly 5,000 Turkey Vultures in March, the RHW recorded the lowest total number of Turkey Vultures in several years (8,837), which was 3,254 fewer than last year's record count of 12,091. This represents a decrease from 2006 totals of 27%.

Although four more Ospreys were sighted than last year, the 2007 total of 116 Ospreys amounts to a 39% decrease from 2003 totals (191).

The count of migrating American Bald Eagles (82) represents a decrease of 28% from the record total in 2006 of 114 migrating bald eagles but is consistent with or higher than recent year counts. The RHW recorded a record number of migrating bald eagles for one day, 17 eagles on April 29<sup>th</sup>, which surpassed last year's one-day record of 14 on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Two non-migrant eagles brought the April 29, 2007 total eagle count to 19, another record. Significantly, only two of the migrating eagles were adults. The RHW recorded 44 sighting of non-migrant bald eagles for a total season count of 126 bald eagle sightings.

Northern Harrier numbers rebounded nicely this year with 230 harriers observed, a 28% increase over the 2006 count but fairly consistent with recent year counts.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk count (1,229), while down only 2% from 2006 totals (1,261), represents what might be seen as a continuing decline and a 29% decrease from the count in 2003 (1,735). Cooper's Hawk numbers (81) were down 25% from last year's count (109). Red-shouldered

Hawk numbers (176) were up by 10% over last year's numbers.

The 2007 Broad-winged Hawk numbers (6,271), although up nearly 60% from last year's very disappointing count (3,923), were still low compared to recent years. The big day for Broad-winged Hawks was April 23rd, when 4,322 birds were seen, more broad-wings than recorded in the whole 2006 season.

The Red-tailed Hawk count (788) was down 26% from last year's low numbers of 1,066. Distinguishing resident from migrant red-tails can sometimes depend on subjective judgements, however, so the steady and dramatic decline of red-tails over the last few years (nearly a 50% decline since 2005) should be considered cautiously. In support of the data, however, the official counters and main observers have been consistent over the last five years and a fairly basic protocol has been observed: any behavior that seems to indicate that a red-tail is a resident excludes that bird from the count of migrants.

The Rough-legged Hawk count (12) was consistent with last year's (8) but down considerably from 2005 (37) and from 2004 (41). Wintering Rough-legged Hawks had been observed in fairly large numbers in January and February just south of the RHW. A few mild days in late February might have influenced the rough-legs to migrate early, both this year and last. Because the predominance of grape vineyards in the vicinity of the RHW is not conducive to the hunting rough-legs, large numbers are not normally expected at the RHW.

Very modest numbers of Golden Eagles, Merlins and Peregrine Falcons are consistent with the counts of recent years.

American Kestrel observations this year (179) were at their lowest in at least five years, off-setting last year's nicely rebounding count (266). Kestrel numbers in 2007 represent a 50% decrease from the count in 2003 (359).

The following table summarizes observations for all raptor species:

**TABLE 1. Ripley Hawk Watch Raptor Count – 2007**

<b>Species</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Season</b>
Black Vulture	0	0	1	1
Turkey Vulture	4,955	2,779	1,103	8,837
Osprey	2	81	33	116
Bald Eagle	14	44	24	82
Northern Harrier	53	140	37	230
Sharp-shinned Hawk	214	687	328	1,229
Cooper's Hawk	28	33	20	81
Northern Goshawk	3	5	1	9
Red-shouldered Hawk	175	0	1	176
Broad-winged Hawk	0	5,882	389	6,271
Red-tailed Hawk	389	249	150	788
Rough-legged Hawk	11	1	0	12
Golden Eagle	1	1	0	2
American Kestrel	37	119	23	179

**TABLE 1. Ripley Hawk Watch Raptor Count – 2007**

Merlin	1	7	1	9
Peregrine Falcon	0	1	2	3
Unknown	2	36	11	49
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5,885</b>	<b>10,065</b>	<b>2,124</b>	<b>18,074</b>
<b>Hours</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>313.5</b>

The RHW observed a number of non-raptor species also. Noteworthy species this year included Common Raven, Western Meadowlark, Great Egret and Winter Wren among others. Sandhill Cranes were seen on six days, with a total of eleven cranes, and a fairly large flock was heard but not seen on a seventh day. The raven was observed on May 2<sup>nd</sup>; the Western Meadowlark was seen on eleven separate days between April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>, with two individuals seen together at least once. The Black Vulture, recorded above with the raptors, was seen on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The RHW coordinator Len DeFrancisco, who approaches octogenarian status in great style, will be cutting back on his hours next year, which highlights the continuing need for new observers of all skill levels to join the RHW. The RHW enjoys its close association with the Buffalo Ornithological Society and looks forward to continued visits and support from BOS members. Spending time at the RHW, the Hamburg Hawk Watch and other hawk watches is a great way to sharpen birding skills and contribute at the same time to our knowledge of very important wildlife resources. Len says, "I want to thank all the fine folks who helped us and enjoyed counting raptors with us. The friendships I've been fortunate to enter into through my involvement with the RHW are precious to me, including long distance friendships with Amish birders to the west of us who always give us a heads-up for the first broad-wings of the season."

Len will continue active in the New York State Ornithological Association and other conservation organizations. He will continue to speak out against poorly sited industrial wind turbine projects, especially when those projects are proposed in migratory flyways. Although the proposed turbine project in the vicinity of the RHW is not going ahead at this time, the area still remains attractive to wind industry developers who are willing to discount the risk to migrating raptors, bats, neo-tropical songbirds and other birds.

A number of dedicated volunteers assisted with observations, including Mel Freeborough, Jann Randell, Mike Ceci, Bill Dietz, Tom Simmons, Bill and Eileen Jowett, Jill and Berk Adams and Tom Wasilewski. Amish birders Ed Schlabach and his brother, Leroy Yoder and Bruce Glick from Holmes County, Ohio, to the west of the RHW, alerted us to any imminent Broad-winged Hawk flights.

Detailed daily reports can be reviewed at [www.hawk-count.org](http://www.hawk-count.org), along with reports from other hawk watches affiliated with the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Questions about the RHW should be directed to Len DeFrancisco, coordinator (716/665-4999), Gil Randell (716/753-2333) or to [janngil@cecomet.net](mailto:janngil@cecomet.net).

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Brant	13F	28	Wilson	D'Anna
Mute Swan	26	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna
Northern Shoveler	5	14	Batavia WWTP	Watson, D'Anna
"	17	1	Times Beach NP	Andrle
Canvasback	15L	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Ring-necked Duck	27	5	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna, Potter
Surf Scoter	7L	2	Fort Niagara	Watson
Long-tailed Duck	7L	81	Fort Niagara	Watson
Bufflehead	15, 26L	8, 2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	26L	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	26L	1	Port Maitland (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Ruddy Duck	5; 9	111; 50	Batavia WWTP	Watson, D'Anna; Beattie
"	15	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25; 27	30; 35	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; D'Anna, Potter
Common Loon	8	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird, Eaton
"	17	1	Allegany SP	Baird, LeBlanc
Red-necked Grebe	13L	11	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
D.-crested Cormorant	7	36 + 165 n	Strawberry I.	Watson
"	26	800	Rock Point PP	Watson
"	26	2	Iroquois NWR	K&J Landau et al
American Bittern	3	1	Pomfret	Mosher, Goetzes
"	5; 30	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al; Salembier
"	17; 29	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Fox, Beattie; Yoerg et al
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Yoerg et al
* Least Bittern	29F	1	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
Great Blue Heron	7	89 ad + 19 yg + 68 n	Motor I.	Watson
Great Egret	1 - 31	1 - 5	Tonawanda	Hess
"	5	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	6; 29	1; 22	Tonawanda WMA	Dart, Beattie; Lazarczyk
"	12	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	14	45 + 29 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	19	1	Dunkirk	Neveu
"	26	3	Iroquois NWR	K&J Landau et al
* Snowy Egret	21	1; 1	Niagara Falls, NY	Lazarczyk; Watson
* <u>Tricolored Heron</u>	28 - 30	1	Iroquois NWR	O'Donnell, Lazarczyk, Watson, Galas et al
* Cattle Egret	9F, 10	1	North Harmony	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	27	1 ad	Port Colborne (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	14	76 + 34 n	Motor I.	Watson
"	17	105	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
* <u>Glossy Ibis</u>	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
<u>Ibis sp. (<i>Plegadis</i>)</u>	19; 21	1; 1	Tifft NP; Iroquois NWR	Happ; D'Anna, Potter
Turkey Vulture	4	211	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Osprey	1, 4	1, 1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	3	1	Iroquois NWR	M&S Galas
Bald Eagle	3	1	Iroquois NWR	M&S Galas
"	4	4	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
"	5	2 ad, 2 yg	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	5	3 juv	Sheridan	Neveu
"	10	2 ad, 1 yg	Machias	Baird, DeSha
"	17	1 imm	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird, LeBlanc
"	17; 25	6; 4	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki; Morgante
"	18	2 ad	Navy I. (Ont)	Watson
Northern Goshawk	8L	1	Ripley Hawkwatch	M&S Galas
Broad-winged Hawk	22, 24	10, 115	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
<u>Golden Eagle</u>	8	1 ad	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Chilton et al
Merlin	13L	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	5 - 20	1	Niagara Falls & Goat I.	M&S Galas
"	6	2	Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	17	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	22L	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Watson
Virginia Rail	3; 5	1; 4	Tonawanda WMA	M&S Galas; Pawlicki et al
Sora	3; 5	1; 3	Tonawanda WMA	M&S Galas; Pawlicki et al
"	5	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
Common Moorhen	3	1	Iroquois NWR	M&S Galas
Sandhill Crane	5	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	1	Tifft NP	Morgante
"	12	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, Ensminger et al
"	<u>28L</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Galas, Watson et al
* Black-bellied Plover	18F; 21	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* Semipalmated Plover	3F	1	Clarence	M&S Galas
"	5	10	Batavia WWTP	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	5; 18	2; 63	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al; Watson
"	25	40	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
Greater Yellowlegs	23	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	D'Anna
"	26L	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna
Lesser Yellowlegs	5	165	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, D'Anna
Solitary Sandpiper	5	6	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	6	15	Tonawanda WMA	Dart, Beattie
Spotted Sandpiper	6	50	Tonawanda WMA	Dart, Beattie
Upland Sandpiper	26	2	Colden	K&J Landau
"	27	1	Tillman WMA	D'Anna, Potter
* Whimbrel	26F; 27L	60; 17	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al; Yoerg et al
"	26F	74	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna
"	26F	17	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna, Watson
"	27L	6	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	27L	11	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Marbled Godwit	5; 6	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna; Watson et al
* Ruddy Turnstone	15F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	23	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	D'Anna
* Sanderling	15F	3	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	26	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna et al
* Semipalm. Sandpiper	<u>6F</u>	1; 4	Tonawanda WMA	M&S Galas; Yoerg et al
"	7	1	Hartland	Watson
"	26	128	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna
Least Sandpiper	5	61	Batavia WWTP	Watson, Pawlicki
"	5	3	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	12	96	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
"	12	200	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
* White-r. Sandpiper	15F	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	25	4	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	26	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	Clarence	M&S Galas
"	5	9	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Salembier
"	31L	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Salembier
* Purple Sandpiper	4	2	Niagara Falls	D'Anna
"	10	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Dunlin	6; 18	1; 43	Tonawanda WMA	M&S Galas; Watson
"	6	15; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Dart, Beattie; Yoerg et al
"	12; 25	18; 35	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al; Morgante
* Stilt Sandpiper	27	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
* Short-b. Dowitcher	18F	1	Crescent Beach (Ont)	Galas, D'Anna
"	27L	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Wilson's Phalarope	21; 22	1; 2	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna; Watson et al
"	27	1	Iroquois NWR	Potter, D'Anna
Little Gull	2	6	Lewiston	D'Anna
Iceland Gull	10	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
"	12	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22L	2	Olcott	Potter, D'Anna
Lesser Black-b. Gull	9	1	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	22L	3	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
"	22L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Glaucous Gull	2L	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Salembier
Common Tern	6	1000	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Harper et al
* Black Tern	3F; 18	1; 21	Tonawanda WMA	M&S Galas; Watson
"	5	15	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	6	1	LaSalle Park, Bflo.	Pawlicki
* Black-billed Cuckoo	9F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	12	1	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
* Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Rising
"	19	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	19	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	1	Arkwright	Neveu
* Common Nighthawk	11F - 31	3 - 4	Buffalo	Yoerg, Galas
"	16	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	17	6	Tonawanda WMA	Fox, Beattie
"	19	8	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
* Whip-poor-will	3F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Ruby-t. Hummingbird	5F	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8	1	Ripley	M&S Galas
"	8	1	Eden	Andrle
Red-headed Wdpkr.	5	1	Youngstown	Yonker
"	6; 9	1; 4	Point Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson et al; D'Anna, Potter
"	8	1	Dunkirk	Mitchell, Galas
"	9	2	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	9	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	13, 20	2	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	15; 26	3; 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson; D'Anna et al
"	18 - 31	1 - 5	Fort Niagara SP	Landon

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Olive-s. Flycatcher	17F	1	Allegany SP	Baird, LeBlanc
"	22	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	9F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg, Henderson
* Yellow-b. Flycatcher	12F	1	Sheridan	Neveu
"	16; 18	1,2; 2	Amherst SP	Rising, Young, Yoerg, Henderson; Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	1	Tillman WMA	Watson
* Acadian Flycatcher	19F	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	6	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	30	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Salembier
* Alder Flycatcher	17F	1	Allegany SP	Baird, LeBlanc
"	19	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Potter, D'Anna
* Willow Flycatcher	9F	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	16	1	Alexander	Beattie
Least Flycatcher	4	1	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	4	1	Carlton Hill WMA	Dart, Beattie
* Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	1F	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
"	3; 4	1	Amherst SP	Rising; Salembier
"	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	1	2	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Yellow-thr. Vireo	11F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	15; 18	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Yoerg et al
"	16	1	Alexander	Beattie
Warbling Vireo	1	2	Tifft NP	Watson
* Philadelphia Vireo	15F	1	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16	1	Allegany SP	Galas, Yoerg
"	16; 17	1; 4	Amherst SP	Yoerg et al; Salembier
"	17	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	17	2	Salamanca	Baird, LeBlanc
"	18, 22	1, 1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	22L	2	Wilson Cemetery	Potter, D'Anna
* Red-eyed Vireo	3F; 10	1; 1	Amherst SP	Watson; Yoerg et al
Common Raven	2	1	Ripley	Salembier
"	6	2	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
"	13	1	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	17	1	Allegany SP	Baird, LeBlanc
"	28	3	Yorkshire	Morgante
"	30	2	Andover	Brooks
Bank Swallow	6	15	Hanover	Neveu
Cliff Swallow	1	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	1	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	D'Anna
"	8	2 + n	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	9	20	Old Fort Niagara	Landon
"	10	40 + 52 n	Tonawanda I.	Watson
"	17	1	North Tonawanda	M&S Galas
"	22	2	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
"	31	60 + 30 n	Old Fort Niagara	Landon
Carolina Wren	3; 4; 10	1; 1	Amherst SP	Watson; Salembier; Rising
"	4	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
"	12	1	Hanover	Neveu
"	18	2	Goat I.	Watson
Winter Wren	1	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19	1	Arkwright	Neveu

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26; 28	1; 1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
"	27	2	Ward	Brooks
Marsh Wren	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	5	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	3	75	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	22L	4	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* Veery	4F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watson
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	19F	1	Arkwright	Neveu
"	22	2	Wilson Cemetery	D'Anna, Potter
* Swainson's Thrush	5F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
"	8	1	Dunkirk	Galas
"	9	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	9	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	30	2	Wilson	Potter
"	30	5	Allegany SP	Chilton
Wood Thrush	4	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Mockingbird	5	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	26	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna
American Pipit	3	1	Clarence	Galas
"	6; 29L	2; 1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al; Yoerg et al
"	18	1	Alabama	Watson
Blue-winged Warbler	5	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
"	6	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg
* Brewster's Warbler	17F	1	Red House	Baird, LeBlanc
* Tennessee Warbler	4F	3	Alexander	Dart, Beattie
"	6	1	Allegany SP	Galas
* Orange-cr. Warbler	4F	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	18	1	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
* Northern Parula	4F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Yellow Warbler	1	11	Tiffet NP	Watson
* Chestnut-s. Warbler	5F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	6	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
* Magnolia Warbler	5F	1	Tiffet NP	Galas
"	5F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	5F	1	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	7	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
* Cape May Warbler	9F	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	9F	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	10	4	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki
"	10	1;1	Amherst SP	Rising; Yoerg
* Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	4F	1	Allegany SP	Galas
"	4F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	4F	3	Wilson	Potter
"	4F	3	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	4F	1	Tiffet NP	Sharon
"	6	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-r. Warbler	6	250	Fort Niagara SP	Landon
Blackburnian Warbler	4	2	Wilson	Potter
* <u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	13F	1	Allegany SP	Pawlicki, et al
"	17; 19	1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Baird et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Prairie Warbler	4F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	6	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	9	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	9	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	21L	1	Goat I.	Watson
"	28	10	Yorkshire	Morgante
Palm Warbler	3	13	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	22L	2	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
* Bay-breasted Warbler	9F	2	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	9F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	10	1	Allegany SP	Rising
"	10	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Blackpoll Warbler	10F	1	Amherst SP	Rising
"	10F	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	10F, 11	1, 1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	11	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	29	1	Orchard Park	Morgante
* Cerulean Warbler	5F; 26	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki; K&J Landau et al
"	17	2	Allegany SP	Baird et al
"	21	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	26	1	Iroquois NWR	K&J Landau et al
* American Redstart	6F	1	Allegany SP	Galas
"	6F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	9	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
* Prothonotary Warbler	12F; 18	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Potter, D'Anna; Watson
* Ovenbird	4F	1	Wilson	Potter
"	5	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
* Northern Waterthrush	5F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Northern Waterthrush	9	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
La. Waterthrush	4	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	12	1	Silver Creek Res.	Neveu
"	19	1	Carroll	Berry
"	28	1	Chestnut Ridge Pk	Morgante
* Mourning Warbler	16F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19	2	Yorkshire	Pawlicki, Watson
"	19	1	Royalton	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	3	Arkwright	Neveu
* Common Yellowthroat	5F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	5F; 6	1; 1	Tifft NP	Galas; Sharon
"	6	1	Sinking Ponds	Holmes
* Hooded Warbler	5F	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
"	6	1	Bush Hill SF	Yoerg, Henderson
"	8	1	Ripley	Galas
* Wilson's Warbler	9F	1	Lake Erie SP	Watson
"	10	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Holmes
"	30	1	Wilson	Potter
* Canada Warbler	13F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
	15	1	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Yellow-br. Chat	22F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Potter, D'Anna
* Scarlet Tanager	8F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	8F	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	9	1	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki
Clay-col. Sparrow	30F	2	Andover	Brooks
Vesper Sparrow	12	1	Newfane	Potter, D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
* <u>Lark Bunting</u>	19	1	Woodlawn	Schulz, Pecoraro
Grasshopper Sparrow	26F	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
"	27; 28	4; 4	Tillman WMA	Potter, D'Anna; Watson
"	28	1	Yorkshire	Morgante
* Lincoln's Sparrow	4F; 12	1; 2	Tifft NP	Sharon; Morgante
"	10, 16	3, 1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	16	1	Allegany SP	Galas, Yoerg
White-cr. Sparrow	30L	1	Wilson	Potter
Indigo Bunting	8	1	Ripley	Galas
* Bobolink	5F	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	5F	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>Western Meadowlark</u>	6	1	Ripley	D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	3L	2	Tifft NP	D'Anna, Kester
* Orchard Oriole	5F, 6	1 m	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	7, 19	1 m + 1 f	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	9	2	Lake Erie SP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	9	1	Pt. Gratiot	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Orchard Oriole	11	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	6	Rock Pt. PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
"	17	1	Porter	Rising
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	Bethany	Beattie
Pine Siskin	11	1	Wilson Cemetery	D'Anna

### Errata

Canvasback	Mar. 25, 2007 to <u>9160</u> Mar. 15, 2007	West River, Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Dark-eyed Junco Also note same error in The Month (vol 73, no. 5 on page 35)	April 8, 2007 <u>3465</u> to <u>345</u>	Wilson to Yates	D'Anna, Potter

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **189**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month and May Count + Peregrine Falcon:** **075**

**Total for the year 2007:** **264**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

# Report of the 2007 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 20, 2007

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

## Weather Synopsis (by Terry Yonker)

During the day and evening before the count, a strong southwest flow and warm temperatures characterized weather within the Buffalo Ornithological Society study area. An active cold front passed through the study area during the late morning and early afternoon of the count. Winds switched from the south and southwest to the northwest and north by nightfall. Light rain, fog, and mist moved through the study area in advance of the cold front and lingered several hours after passage of the front, especially in the southern tier.

### Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 5:48 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:36 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Partly Cloudy	50°F	45°F	1014.6 mb	S 17 mph	
3:00 am	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Fog/Mist	50	49	1013.8	SW 9	
6:00 am	Cloudy/Fog/Mist	51	50	1013.0	SW 6	
9:00 am	Cloudy/Fog/Mist	54	51	1012.8	SW 13	Passage of Cold Front
12:00 pm	Cloudy/Lt Rain/Fog/Mist	55	51	1013.7	W 13	
3:00 pm	Cloudy	54	46	1013.7	NW 13	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	52	42	1015.0	NW 14	
9:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	51	40	1016.9	NW 13	
12:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	49	36	1019.1	N 14	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

### G e e s e - H e r o n s

Brant	3 (4)	Common Merganser	123
Canada Goose	4554	Red-breasted Merganser	434
Mute Swan	4 (2,3)	Ruddy Duck	44 (7,10,13)
Wood Duck	272	unspecified waterfowl	9
Gadwall	12 (7,8,10)	Ring-necked Pheasant	* 31
American Wigeon	8 (7,8,10)	Ruffed Grouse	18
American Black Duck	7	Wild Turkey	196
Mallard	1047	Red-throated Loon	1 (26)
Blue-winged Teal	19	Common Loon	15
Northern Shoveler	8	Pied-billed Grebe	25
Northern Pintail	2 (10)	Horned Grebe	1 (2)
Green-winged Teal	3 (7,13)	Double-crested Cormorant	1842
Redhead	6 (7,10)	American Bittern	5 (5,10,19)
Ring-necked Duck	2 (13)	Great Blue Heron	578
Greater Scaup	14 (8)	Great Egret	66
Lesser Scaup	9	<b>Snowy Egret</b>	* 1 (9)
White-winged Scoter	6 (4,9)	Green Heron	48
Long-tailed Duck	4 (2,4)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	123
Bufflehead	10 (7,8,9)	<b>Ibis species</b>	1 (10)
Hooded Merganser	26		

### V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s

Turkey Vulture	396	American Kestrel	49
Osprey	16	Merlin	3 (11,24)
Bald Eagle	17	Peregrine Falcon	9 (9,11)
Northern Harrier	10	unspecified hawks	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	Virginia Rail	3 (2,9)
Cooper's Hawk	18	Sora	3 (2,13)

Red-shouldered Hawk	9	Common Moorhen	4	(2,10)
Broad-winged Hawk	5	American Coot	44	
Red-tailed Hawk	147	Sandhill Crane	4	(6,22)
Rough-legged Hawk	1			
<b>Plovers - Terns</b>				
Black-bellied Plover	1	Wilson's Snipe	5	(5,16,18)
Semipalmated Plover	52	American Woodcock	6	(1,9,20)
Killdeer	418	Wilson's Phalarope	F*	1 (10)
Greater Yellowlegs	11	unspecified shorebirds		1
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	Bonaparte's Gull		210
Solitary Sandpiper	12	Ring-billed Gull		13796
Willet	*	Herring Gull		1023
Spotted Sandpiper	114	Iceland Gull		1 (3)
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>	2	Lesser Black-backed Gull		3 (3,14)
Upland Sandpiper	F*	Glaucous Gull		2 (4,20)
Ruddy Turnstone	*	Great Black-backed Gull		285
Semipalmated Sandpiper	14	Caspian Tern		132
Least Sandpiper	148	Common Tern		425
Dunlin	171	Black Tern		35 (10)
Short-billed Dowitcher	10	(1,7,10)		
<b>Pigeons - Swallows</b>				
Rock Pigeon	977	Willow Flycatcher	52	
Mourning Dove	1657	Least Flycatcher	86	
Black-billed Cuckoo	27	Empidonax species	18	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	18	Eastern Phoebe		138
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	Great-crested Flycatcher		175
Great Horned Owl	4	Eastern Kingbird		225
Barred Owl	11	Yellow-throated Vireo		11
Common Nighthawk	6	Blue-headed Vireo		67
Chimney Swift	169	Warbling Vireo		302
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	223	Philadelphia Vireo		5 (7,8,9)
Belted Kingfisher	77	Red-eyed Vireo		370
Red-headed Woodpecker	13	Blue Jay		951
Red-bellied Woodpecker	202	American Crow		2006
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	64	Common Raven		15
Downy Woodpecker	276	Horned Lark		32
Hairy Woodpecker	88	Purple Martin		565
Northern Flicker	283	Tree Swallow		2867
Pileated Woodpecker	46	N. Rough-winged Swallow		1116
Eastern Wood Pewee	57	Bank Swallow		206
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	Cliff Swallow		240
Acadian Flycatcher	2	Barn Swallow		3512
Alder Flycatcher	18			
<b>Tits - Waxwings</b>				
Black-capped Chickadee	913	Veery	152	
Tufted Titmouse	147	Gray-cheeked Thrush	6	(7,20,23)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	27	Swainson's Thrush		22
White-breasted Nuthatch	170	Hermit Thrush		16
Brown Creeper	16	Wood Thrush		435
Carolina Wren	23	American Robin		5568
House Wren	451	Gray Catbird		1198
Winter Wren	1	Northern Mockingbird		21
Marsh Wren	16	Brown Thrasher		69
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	44	European Starling		6422
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	31	American Pipit		2 (2,27)
Eastern Bluebird	220	Cedar Waxwing		192

## Warblers – House Sparrows

Blue-winged Warbler		122	Palm Warbler	26
Golden-winged Warbler	F*	1 (5)	Bay-breasted Warbler	33
Tennessee Warbler		53	Blackpoll Warbler	44
Orange-crowned Warbler		1 (7)	Cerulean Warbler	11
Nashville Warbler		15	Black-and-white Warbler	43
Northern Parula		6	American Redstart	398
Yellow Warbler		1924	Ovenbird	170
Chestnut-sided Warbler		240	Northern Waterthrush	12
Magnolia Warbler		125	Louisiana Waterthrush	4 (17,23,27)
Cape May Warbler		11	Mourning Warbler	41
Black-throated Blue Warbler		36	Common Yellowthroat	815
Yellow-rumped Warbler		199	Hooded Warbler	153
Black-throated Green Warbler		83	Wilson's Warbler	36
Blackburnian Warbler		80	Canada Warbler	28
Pine Warbler		17	Yellow-breasted Chat	F* 1 (7)
Prairie Warbler		8 (18,19,25)	Warbler species	12

## Tanagers – House Sparrows

Scarlet Tanager		118	Northern Cardinal	841
Eastern Towhee		181	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	678
American Tree Sparrow		6 (3)	Indigo Bunting	251
Chipping Sparrow		1094	Bobolink	811
Clay-colored Sparrow	F*	1 (20)	Red-winged Blackbird	6047
Field Sparrow		163	Eastern Meadowlark	141
Vesper Sparrow		5 (3,13,19)	Rusty Blackbird	3 (27)
Savannah Sparrow		202	Common Grackle	4238
Grasshopper Sparrow	F*	19	Brown-headed Cowbird	1158
Song Sparrow		1475	Orchid Oriole	22
Lincoln's Sparrow		4 (6,7,20)	Baltimore Oriole	1008
Swamp Sparrow		93	Purple Finch	187
White-throated Sparrow		55	House Finch	385
White-crowned Sparrow		123	American Goldfinch	2605
unspecified sparrow		11	Evening Grosbeak	4 (28)
Dark-eyed Junco		234	House Sparrow	1641

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 210 (tied for third highest)

Total individual birds observed: 89,114 (near average for the last decade)

Number of observers: 259

## INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

Highest counts: Thirteen species were recorded at their highest total ever: Common Merganser (123), Wild Turkey (196), Great Egret (66), Merlin (3), Peregrine Falcon (9), Glaucous Gull (2), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3), Great Black-backed Gull (285), Red-bellied Woodpecker (220), Pileated Woodpecker (46), Blue-headed Vireo (67), Gray Catbird (1198) and Hooded Warbler (153). Six other species were recorded at their second highest total: Canada Goose (4554), Great Blue Heron (578), Bald Eagle (17), Sandhill Crane (4) and Warbling Vireo (302).

Low counts: Golden-crowned Kinglet was not observed on the count for the first time since 1964.

Rare count sightings: Snowy Egret (1) (3<sup>rd</sup> record '75 & '04); Ibis (1) (4<sup>th</sup> record '47, '02 & '03), Willet (1) (2<sup>nd</sup> record '96), Purple Sandpiper (2) (2<sup>nd</sup> record '97), Iceland Gull (1) (4<sup>th</sup> record '03, '04 & '05) Lesser Black-backed Gull (3) (2<sup>nd</sup> record '03), Northern Bobwhite (1) was also reported.

## VERIFICATION REPORTS

Mike Galas for Purple Sandpiper, and Snowy Egret; Jerry Chapple for Northern Bobwhite and Tom Lathrop for Ibis.

## OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold** face.):

Section 1: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker

Section 2: Brian Ahara, Paul Benham, **John Black**, Kayo Roy, Dan Salibury, Katherine Stoltz

Section 3: Edward Crohn, **Donald Roberson**, Nicholas Randell, Viki Rothman, Timothy Simon, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Martha Welte, Bruce Zahno, Kim Zahno, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth

Section 4: Julie Eberhart, Neal Gordon, Holly Sweeney, **Bill Watson**

Section 5: Don Brasure, Bill Burch, Morgan Jones, Jim Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**

Section 6: **Jerry Chappell**, Nina Chapple, Chauncey Wood, Sarah Wood

**Section 7:** Barbara Henderson, **Mike Hamilton**, Margaret Wooster, Peter Yoerg

**Section 8:** Doug Happ, Marcie Jacklin, **Mike Zebehazy**

**Section 9:** Lewis Crowell, Willie D'Anna, Dave Friedrich, Mike Galas, Dave Gordon, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Christopher Hollister, Bernie Kester, Eric Lobato, Debra Milleville, Betsy Potter, **Gary Rising**, Richard Salembier, Joe Stein

**Section 10:** Alyssa M. DeLeon, Donna V. DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**, Tom Lathrop

**Section 11:** Mike Clarey, Molly Hallinan, Jane Hayer, Marie Johnson, Alice McKale, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Danielle Pecoraro, Marilyn Pecoraro O'Connell, Chuck Rosenburg, Nicole Rutz

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**Section 15:** **William Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov

**Section 16:** Patricia Andrle, Robert Andrle, Thomas Connare, Audrey Horbett, Ann Kustich, **Francis Rew**

**Section 17:** Dorothy J. Rosche, **Richard C. Rosche**

**Section 18:** Chris Betrus, **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau

**Section 19:** Ron Andrews, Pauline Barber, Ruth Boon, **Doris Burton**, Faye Clancy, Art Cooper, Barbara Cox, Ruth Cox, James Fegley, John Hasper, Dora Lilly, Ethan Lynch, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Sam Norton, Virginia Norton, Sean Phelan, Helen Preston, Michael Raybuck, Teresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Ann Voss, Denton Willett, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson

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**Section 21:** Julie Heilman, Walt Heilman, Ranjit Laha, Jessie Nelson, Joanne Nelson, Linda O'Brien, Bill Seelen, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 22:** Paul Baglia, **Ann Beebe**, Jim Berry, Seth Berry, Nancy Karp, Sally Lawson, Lillian Ney, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 23:** Jean Pigman, Bruce J. Robinson, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 24:** **Tim Baird**, Jim Pawlicki

**Section 25:** **Tim Baird**, Stephan W. Eaton, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy

**Section 26:** **Doris Burton**, Frances Hunt, Mary Jordan, Bob Smalley, Bruce Smalley

**Section 27:** Russell Allen, H. M. Bateman, Ann Brocci, **Doris Burton**, Jim Horn, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia, Wilma Sanford

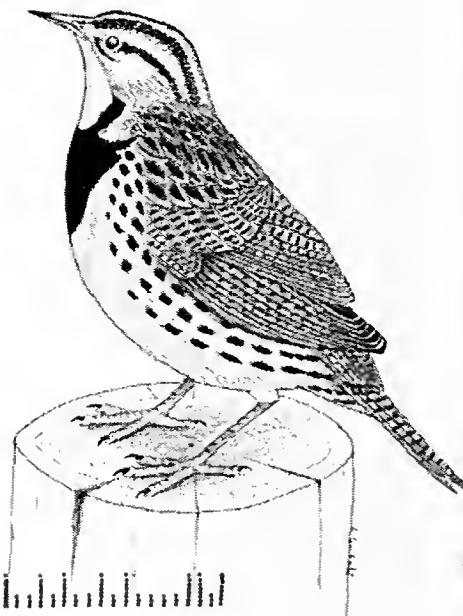
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## August – October Calendar

BOS website  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Aug. 19, Sunday: BOS August Shorebird Count.** Start at 6:30 AM. The count will cover 10 reaches of the north shore of Lake Erie from the Peace Bridge to Port Maitland. Teams of two or more will be assigned each reach. If you have questions or would like to volunteer contact Terry Yonker or Lynne Landon at (716) 745-9129 or email: [llandon@daemen.edu](mailto:llandon@daemen.edu)

**Aug. 26, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: ~~Mike~~ Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti. We will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

**Oct. 5-7: New York State Ornithological Association Meeting** in Batavia, NY. The Buffalo Ornithological Society is hosting the NYSOA meeting this year. The BOS is one of 48 organizations that make up the NYSOA. All BOS members are members of NYSOA. In addition to the fine speakers and other programs, the Annual Meeting is an opportunity to meet birders from all across New York State and we encourage all BOS members to attend. A small steering committee has been planning the meeting, but we need your help to make this conference a success, in areas from registration to field trips. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Please note the BOS has assumed full financial responsibility for this event. In planning we've done everything possible to carefully budget, allowing for reasonable fees, while not losing money. We need as many BOS members as possible to participate in the event, not only by attending, but also helping with one or more of the tasks necessary to make this meeting a success. If you would like to help with field trips contact Mike DeSha at 716-676-3559 or [mjdesha@ischuavalley.net](mailto:mjdesha@ischuavalley.net). To help with other areas, contact Doug Beattie at 585-343-4767 or [beattie@2ki.net](mailto:beattie@2ki.net).

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 7 July, 2007

### THE MONTH: June

*Mike DeSha*

In his summary for the month, Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service in Buffalo characterized June as an "outstanding start to summer." It was the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest June on record, with a mean temperature of 69.4 °F, 3.6 °F, above the average temperature of 65.8 °F. Precipitation was 2.0 inches less than expected, with only 1.82 inches of rain falling at the airport as compared to the average precipitation of 3.82 inches for the month of June. The city and north towns received even less. It was the sunniest June since 1945, a "virtually unbroken stretch of sunshine and warmth. Sunshine totaled an amazing 80% of the possible."

According to McLaughlin, "This warm dry and sunny month followed a near record sunny dry May...with two month rainfall of 2.69 inches, less than a third of the normal 7.17 inches. In addition, May and June were the first consecutive months with over 80% sunshine since July and August of 1939. Only four of the 61 days were mostly cloudy while 49 were mostly sunny."

The warming temperatures and sunny skies during the month made for comfortable birding. Several species of waterfowl made a rare early summer appearance in our region. Jerry Lazarczyk found a Greater Scaup on June 27 in the Chippawa channel of the Niagara River. Bill Watson was notified and joined Lazarczyk. In his verification, Watson distinguished the Greater Scaup from a perhaps somewhat more likely Lesser Scaup by the roundness of the Greater Scaup's head and the "white in the bird's secondaries and primaries." The verification included a remarkable photograph of the bird taken by Lazarczyk (see below).

Watson spotted a Bufflehead on June 16 at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant. *The Seasonal Checklist of the Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region* characterizes the occurrence of both Bufflehead and

Greater Scaup as being very rare in June.

Richard Salembier spotted an American Bittern on June 10 at the Tonawanda WMA and I heard one pumping at Bird Marsh in Cattaraugus County on the same date. American Bitterns, as well as nesting Bald Eagles, are regular in this marsh in the Town of Machias in Cattaraugus County. On June 18, Tim Baird and I visited the marsh, viewing the Eagle's nest, which held two immature eagles, from the shoulder of Route 242 overlooking the marsh. As we stepped from the car we heard the pumping of an American Bittern. I didn't expect to see the bittern, but Tim spotted the bird in the meadow at the edge of the marsh. For a short while I thought it to be simply a stump as it held its beak upright and remained still. In a few minutes though, it started moving cautiously.

Sometimes Nature and a birding field trip conspire to allow one to view some remarkable aspect of bird behavior. The bittern began to pump its long neck upwards and then downwards as it produced its "pumping song." This is the first time I ever saw a bittern in the act of producing this remarkable sound and I watched with great delight. Anyone seeing the action would know precisely why one of the common names for this species is "thunder pumper." While at the marsh, Tim Baird and I also saw the only Marsh



Greater Scaup photographed by Jerry Lazarczyk on June 27, 2007 near Grand Island on the Niagara River.

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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2006-2008	Douglas Beattie Lynne Landon Elizabeth Wells
2007-2009	Donna DeLeon Richard Miga William Watson

Wrens reported for the month of June. A colony of Marsh Wrens has been regularly found at this location since at least 1999.

Sightings of Sandhill Crane are becoming more common as years go by. At 8:00 AM on June 3, Martha and John Welte saw three Sandhill Cranes in Iroquois NWR. At about 1:35 PM on the same day, Watson saw a group of four in Tonawanda WMA. It seems likely that the cranes spotted later in the day may have been the same birds seen earlier by the Weltes. Jim Berry also found a Sandhill Crane at Watts Flats WMA on June 9. There are only three other records of this species in June. This is the first June in which there were multiple sightings and more than two individuals seen at one time.  
*(William Watson, personal communication.)*

In an extremely rare sighting for June, Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter found two Forster's Terns, appearing to be in first alternate plumage, at the Olcott Pier at the outlet of Eighteen Mile Creek in the Town of Newfane on June 9. This is the latest June date that this species has been seen. (*Watson, personal communication.*) D'Anna and Potter were able to distinguish these terns from Common Terns by the differences in bills and the black mask that didn't extend across the nape. The dull orange legs of the Forster's Terns were also different from a Common Tern of similar age

Two warbler species sightings were of note and required verification reports. Betsy Potter found a lingering Blackpoll Warbler on June 18 in her yard in the Town of Wilson. The sighting provides the latest June date for the species; the previous late date was on June 16 in 1935 (*Watson, personal communication.*) Tim Baird documented the sightings of Yellow-throated Warblers in Allegany State Park on June 2 and 7. The locations in the park are places where the species has been seen and successfully nested since at least 2004. Other birders reported seeing the Yellow-throated Warbler(s), but their records of this species were not accepted absent verification.

A Clay-colored Sparrow was found by Schlacter and Watson et. al. on June 7 and again on June 14. This sighting occurred outside the previously known breeding areas in Allegany and Cattaraugus Counties. A single Dickcissel was found by John and Martha Welte on June 10 in Tonawanda WMA. This sighting, marking several consecutive years of Dickcissel records, may indicate a more regular yearly movement of Dickcissels into our region.

## The Whip-poor-wills Perform Again, June 8, 2007

*Bill Burch*

A fierce thunderstorm of short duration gave a refreshing start for this 17th annual outing, which includes a 7 p.m. dinner at the Lotus Garden in Port Colborne, Ontario. Present were 19 BOS members and guests, plus two Canadians from the Bert Miller Nature Club. Also eating there was Blayne Farnan with his wife. He came over to greet us. Blayne had conducted owl prowls for 20 years, the last for BOS in 1991.

After dinner we made a short stop at Minor Road to find Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow. We reached Wilson Road at 9 p.m., where we slowly drove a mile on gravel through a forest laden with bird songs. Lynne Landon's list, mostly of birds heard, had 13: Veery, Wood Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Towhee and Baltimore Oriole. Can you imagine how good a morning walk here would be?

We stood at the listening spot and watched the fireflies, noting that the cool air discouraged the mosquitoes. Some persons reported hearing Green Frogs, but these were not nearly as abundant as when last heard in 2000.

At 9:18 p.m. the first Whip-poor-will called. It was close enough that several sharp ears could hear a small note they were waiting to hear: this was a popping sound made immediately before the "whip" of the call. Donald Kroodsma, in his book (and CD) on *The Singing Life of Birds* describes it as "tuck-whip-poor-WILL". (Try pressing the tongue against the upper palate, generate a little air pressure with the mouth, then let the tongue slide forward.) Eight to ten "Whips" were calling in a loud exchange, but only on the nearest one could the "pops" be heard. One bird called 40 and 62 times without halting, all at the rate of close to one per second. The calling was continuing as we left at 10:15 p.m.

Our Canadian friend, Bob Chambers, who is recovering from a spinal tumor operation, rode about in his electric wheel chair. Bob said that the Niagara Falls peregrines were active near-and-above the long Hydro outlet building on the Canadian side below the Falls. On June 22, we saw two young peregrines on the edge of the roof, waiting to be fed.

Fran Rew said, "Let's do this trip three more years and make it an even twenty."

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<b><u>Species</u></b>	<b><u>June</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Observer(s)</u></b>
Tundra Swan	3L	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Redhead	11	1 ad+5 yg	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	<u>3, 6L</u>	1, 1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	3, 14	6, 7	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Greater Scaup	<u>27</u>	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk, Watson
Bufflehead	<u>16</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
Red-br. Merganser	15; 25	1; 1	Times Beach NP	Andrle; Watson
"	30	30	Niagara Falls	Watson
Ruddy Duck	3; 16	11; 21	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Watson et al
Common Loon	18	2	Barker	Watson, Schlacter
"	28	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
D.-crested Cormorant	17	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
American Bittern	10	1	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	10	1	Franklinville	Deshaw
"	18	1	Machias	Baird, Desha
Great Egret	1 - 30	1 - 4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	10	15	Fort Erie (Ont)	Morgante
"	13	50	Motor I.	Watson et al
"	22; 29	4; 3	Tifft NP	Andrle; Yoerg
Black-cr. Night-Heron	29	12	Motor I.	Watson et al
Osprey	2; 5	2; 2 + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Lazarczyk; Watson
"	6, 11	2 ad + n	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
"	17	1	Clay Ponds WMA	Berry
Bald Eagle	3	1 ad+1 yg	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	7	1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Hess
"	10, 24	2 ad+2 yg	Machias	Deshaw
"	18	2 ad+2 yg	Machias	Baird, Desha
"	29	1 imm	Allegheny Reservoir	Baird
Northern Harrier	10;20;29	1; 1; 1	Andover; Alfred; Grove	Brooks
Merlin	<u>23, 26</u>	1, 1	UB south campus	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	<u>5</u>	1 ad+n+2 yg	Niagara Falls (Ont)	Watson
"	<u>9; 25</u>	1; 1	N. Grand I. bridge	Landon, Yonker; Lazarczyk
Sandhill Crane	<u>3</u>	4	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	<u>3</u>	3	Iroquois NWR	M Welte
"	<u>9</u>	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Upland Sandpiper	9	4	Tillman WMA	Salembier, Yoerg
Semipalm. Sandpiper	4	7	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	4	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Dunlin	4	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	11L	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson, Schlacter
Wilson's Snipe	24	2	Centerville	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Forster's Tern	9	2	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
Black Tern	7, 11, 16	2, 16, 27	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Watson, Schlacter
Barred Owl	27	1 ad+5 yg	Orchard Park	Morgante
Common Nighthawk	1 - 30	2 - 3	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
Whip-poor-will	8	8	Wainfleet Bog (Ont)	Lazarczyk et al (BOS)
Red-headed Wdpkr.	9; 12	2; 1	Youngstown	Landon; Landon, Yonker
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	8L	1	Wethersfield	D&S Junkin
Acadian Flycatcher	1	2	Holland	Salembier
"	2, 3	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	10	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	17	2	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17	1	Carroll	Berry
Yellow-thr. Vireo	9	1	Tillman WMA	Yoerg
"	10	4	Tonawanda WMA	Salembier
"	17	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
"	22	1	Jamestown Aud. Sanct.	Baird
Common Raven	7	2	Wethersfield	Watson, Schlacter
"	17	1	Ellicottville	Yoerg, Henderson
"	17 - 30	1 - 3	Allegany Co.	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	5	4 ad+28 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
"	17; 26	2; 7 + 2n	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
"	20; 26	2; 5	Andover; Burns	Brooks
Carolina Wren	9	1	Youngstown	Landon, Yonker
"	19	1	Jamestown	Berry
Winter Wren	1	2	Holland	Salembier
"	10; 22; 29	2; 1; 1	Ward; Alfred; Birdsall	Brooks
"	14	1	Wethersfield	Watson et al
"	17	1	Salamanca	Yoerg
Marsh Wren	10; 18	4; 5	Machias	Desha; Desha, Baird
Gray-cheeked Thrush	7L	1	Wilson	Potter
Swainson's Thrush	2	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	2L	1	Wilson	Potter
Hermit Thrush	1	2	Holland	Salembier
Brown Thrasher	9	5	Tillman WMA	Salembier
Brewster's Warbler	10	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	18	1	Royalton Ravine Park	Watson, Schlacter
Nashville Warbler	1	1	Portville	Baird
"	1	1	Andover	Brooks
Northern Parula	15; 17	1; 4	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson
Yellow-r. Warbler	22	1	Wilson	Potter
<u>Yellow-thr. Warbler</u>	2, 7	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
Pine Warbler	1	2	Holland	Salembier
"	2, 3; 17	1, 1; 1	Allegany SP	Baird; Yoerg, Henderson
"	7, 9, 25	1	Wilson	Potter
"	24	1	Ward	Brooks
Prairie Warbler	7	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	7	3	Eagle	Watson et al
"	14	1	Wyoming Co.	Lazarczyk et al
"	18	1	Machias	Baird, Desha
Blackpoll Warbler	<u>18L</u>	1	Wilson	Potter
Cerulean Warbler	7	2	Tonawanda WMA	Hess
"	10	8	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Yoerg
"	21	1	Salamanca	Baird

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-&-white Warb.	17	2	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
Prothonotary Warbler	7; 30	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Potter, D'Anna
Northern Waterthrush	3	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6; 7	1; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Hess; Watson, Schlacter
"	10	1	Tonawanda Indian Res.	Yoerg
La. Waterthrush	1	2	Holland	Salembier
"	16	1	Carroll	Berry
"	17	1	Salamanca	Yoerg, Henderson
Hooded Warbler	17	1	Cambria	Landon
Canada Warbler	7	2	Wethersfield	Watson, Schlacter
"	16	1	Carroll	Berry
"	17	1	Allegany Indian Res.	Yoerg, Henderson
Clay-col. Sparrow	7, 14	1, 1	Eagle	Watson et al
"	9 - 25	2 - 3	Andover	Brooks
"	24	1	Yorkshire	Desha
Grasshopper Sparrow	4	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
"	8; 26	1; 1	Andover; Almond	Brooks
"	9	6	Tillman WMA	Salembier, Yoerg
"	13	2	Clarence	Hess
White-thr. Sparrow	3 - 29	1 - 7	Allegany Co.	Brooks
* <u>Dickcissel</u>	10	1	Tonawanda WMA	J Welte
Orchard Oriole	22	1	Wilson	Potter
* Red Crossbill	3	2 - 4	Ward	Brooks

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **264**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** **002**

**Total for the year 2007:** **266**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

## Bird Mortality Surveys at the Bethlehem Wind Towers

*John Grehan*

BQ energy is building eight new wind towers at the Bethlehem Steel site. The company has volunteered to support an exploratory bird mortality survey during 2007 and chose to use this opportunity to provide financial support for Buffalo Museum of Science and its operation of Tifft by contracting with us to implement the survey.

The survey is being carried out through the participation of volunteers at Tifft and is open to the participation of any interested individuals. Expertise in bird identification is not required, although such skills are always welcome. The survey takes place at approximately 10 day intervals in the Spring and Fall and 21 day intervals during the Summer (see below).

Each survey comprises eight transects for a 320 x 320 area around each of eight wind towers (in reality usually a

smaller area due to constraints of topography) and a weather tower. Specimens will be photographed and if identification is uncertain the specimen will be retained. Specimens may also be retained for later use in a predator removal survey. The survey usually takes about two hours.

Participants will be signed in and out of the site and a liability waiver will need to be signed. There are restrictions over walking beyond the survey area itself and photographing the area. I missed putting this notice in the Prothonotary at the beginning of the survey, however there are numerous survey dates still scheduled (see below).

If you are interested to register for one or more of the following dates please contact John Grehan at 896-5200, ext. 372, or at [jgrehan@sciencebuff.org](mailto:jgrehan@sciencebuff.org). I can also be contacted evenings at 549-1125. It is ok to let me know the day before as long as direct contact is made. Directions to the site can be provided.

Survey dates (As of August 6, 2007. These may be adjusted): August 24, September 4, 14, 24 and October 5, 16, 25.

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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|||||

## August – October Calendar

BOS website  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



Buffalo-Niagara Region  
Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

**Aug. 26, Sunday: Canadian shoreline of Lake Erie for shorebirds and other early migrants.** Leader: Mike Hamilton (881-6709). Meet at 7:30 AM at Vermont and Busti. We will be going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$10.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money if you have it. Make sure you have photo ID.

**Sept. 12: BOS Meeting at 7:30 PM in Cummings Room at Buffalo Museum of Science.** Terry Yonker will present a talk entitled: *Addressing Climate Change in the Great Lakes.*

**Sept. 12-16: Joint meeting of the Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) and the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA)** at the Kittatinny Conference Center in Fogelsville, PA. Hosted by Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. Details can be found at [www.hawkmountain.org](http://www.hawkmountain.org).

**Oct. 5-7: New York State Ornithological Association Meeting** in Batavia, NY. The Buffalo Ornithological Society is hosting the NYSOA meeting this year. The BOS is one of 48 organizations that make up the NYSOA. All BOS members are members of NYSOA. In addition to the fine speakers and other programs, the Annual Meeting is an opportunity to meet birders from all across New York State. We encourage all BOS members to attend. **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Please note the BOS has assumed full financial responsibility for this event. In planning we've done everything possible to carefully budget, allowing for reasonable fees, while not losing money. We need as many BOS members as possible to participate in the event, not only by attending, but also helping with one or more of the tasks necessary to make this meeting a success. If you can help with field trips contact Mike DeSha at 716-676-3559 or [mjdesha@ischuavalley.net](mailto:mjdesha@ischuavalley.net). To help with other areas, contact Doug Beattie at 585-343-4767 or [beattie@2ki.net](mailto:beattie@2ki.net).

# The PROTHONOTARY



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## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 8 August, 2007

### THE MONTH: July

*Gerry Rising*

Surprise. We do still occasionally get an average month for weather. After May and June, this month served as a kind of relief with temperature and precipitation near normal. Average temperature, 69.7 °F, was a degree below average; precipitation, 3.3 inches, 0.2 inches above average; sunshine at 65%, 2% below average. There were 12 days when the temperature rose above 80°, with only one above 90°. The Fourth, with a 66° max, was the coolest Independence Day in a decade. Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service Buffalo Office described the rainfall as spotty. Indeed, it seemed to miss my yard. On one occasion I drove through a heavy downpour a mile from home only to find my yard still dry as a bone, the sprinklers going full force.

I am always amazed at the early return of shorebirds. With spring migration hardly out of the way, back come these birds from the farthest reaches of the Arctic. Consider the first fall dates in the temporal order they appear among BOS records: Least Sandpiper, July 1; Greater Yellowlegs, July 6; American Avocet, July 8; Willet, July 17; Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher, July 19; Solitary Sandpiper, July 20; and Ruddy Turnstone, July 29. Some of those birds might have been stragglers or wanderers, but the list still reflects the remarkably early return of these long distance migrants.

Sadly, as Hector Galbraith indicated at the annual meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, the migration schedule of these birds is being challenged by global warming with a resulting sharp decrease in their numbers. Are we feeling that decline here? Difficult to tell,

of course, but I consider the maximum counts of these shorebirds puny compared with other years. Here are those maxes for individual migrating species: Semi-palmated Plover 5,

American Avocet 1, Greater Yellowlegs 1, Lesser Yellowlegs 23, Solitary Sandpiper 4, Willet 1, Ruddy Turnstone 2, Sanderling 4, Semipalmated Sandpiper 28, Least Sandpiper 28, Pectoral Sandpiper 1, Short-billed Dowitcher 4. Let's hope that later season numbers pick up.

Additional evidence for warming: the Tonawanda WMA count of Great Egrets reaching 170 and more reports of Acadian Flycatchers. Further evidence of the decline of field birds: only one Grasshopper Sparrow and no Henslow's Sparrows reported.

Altogether a quiet month with, despite the end of the state breeding bird atlas censusing, some good field work by a few observers. Not yet mentioned birds listed that I wish I had seen: Clay-colored Sparrow and Red Crossbill.



Willet photographed by Bill Watson on July 17, 2007 at Dunkirk Harbor.

69 The Month

*Gerry Rising*

70 Noteworthy Records

*Bruce Chilton*

72 BOS Calendar

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	6	11	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
Wood Duck	22	63	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	1, 15	5, 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
White-winged Scoter	29	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, P.O'Donnell et al
Common Merganser	7, 27	4, 45	Sheridan	Neveu
"	9	1 ad + 7 yg	Hamburg	Watson
"	19	40	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Ruddy Duck	1, 15	25, 27	Batavia WWTP	Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	6	520	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	23	704	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
American Bittern	1	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Great Egret	18	70	Motor I.	Watson
"	21; 24	102; 170	Tonawanda WMA	Jones; Watson
Black-cr. Night-Heron	14	15	Tonawanda WMA	Jones
Osprey	1 - 6	2 n + yg	Allegany SP	Hess
"	1 - 6	1 n + yg	Allegheny Reservoir	Hess
"	3	2	N. Grand I. bridge	Lazarczyk
"	15	2 ad + 3 yg	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	21	1 + n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Gordon
Bald Eagle	3	1 ad+1 imm	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	7	1 ad	Arkwright	Watson, Pawlicki
"	13, 29	4 imm, 5 imm	Sheridan	Neveu
"	22	2 ad + n	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Northern Goshawk	14	1 ad	Sherman	DeFrancisco
Red-shouldered Hawk	29	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Broad-winged Hawk	9	1	Alfred	Brooks
Peregrine Falcon	7	1 imm	Times Beach NP	Watson
"	21	1 ad+1 imm	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson, Gordon
* American Avocet	8	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
"	8, 17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
Greater Yellowlegs	6 F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	18	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Solitary Sandpiper	20F, 28	2, 4	Silver Creek	Neveu
"	21	1	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	Salembier
"	22	3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Willet	17F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, Lazarczyk et al
Ruddy Turnstone	29F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Pawlicki (BOS)
"	30	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Sanderling	19F	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	21	1	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	Salembier
Semipalm. Sandpiper	19F	28	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	19F	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Neveu
Least Sandpiper	1F	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Least Sandpiper	6	18	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
Pectoral Sandpiper	19F	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Watson
Short-b. Dowitcher	19F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	29	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	D'Anna, Pawlicki (BOS)
"	29	1	Mouth of Silver Creek	Neveu
Common Tern	6	120	Long Beach (Ont)	Watson
Black Tern	1	29 + 1 imm	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Red-headed Wdpkr.	7	1	Pt. Gratiot	Watson, Pawlicki
"	21	1	Windmill Pt. (Ont)	Salembier
"	29	2	Pt. Abino (Ont)	D'Anna, Pawlicki (BOS)
Acadian Flycatcher	1 - 6	5	Allegany SP	Hess
"	7	4	Canadaway Creek	Watson, Pawlicki
"	14	4	Pomfret	Neveu
"	22	1	Chestnut Ridge Park	Morgante
Common Raven	24, 30	2, 2	Andover	Brooks
Tree Swallow	15	100	Grand I.	Lazarczyk et al
Cliff Swallow	21	15 + 32 n	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Carolina Wren	6	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
"	14	2	Westfield	DeFrancisco
"	25	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	31	1 ad + 2 yg	Falconer	DeFrancisco
Winter Wren	1 - 6	3	Allegany SP	Hess
"	8, 15, 22	1, 1, 1	Ward	Brooks
Swainson's Thrush	4	2	Allegany SP	Hess
Hermit Thrush	8	1	Villanova	Neveu
"	24	1	Darien SP	Dart, Beattie
Northern Parula	1 - 6	5	Allegany SP	Hess
Pine Warbler	5	1	Allegany SP	Hess
"	12	1	Delevan	D'Anna
"	16	1	Concord	D'Anna
Prairie Warbler	2	1	Alfred	Brooks
Cerulean Warbler	15	2	Bethany	Beattie
La. Waterthrush	1 - 6	2	Allegany SP	Hess
"	7	2	Canadaway Creek	Watson, Pawlicki
Clay-col. Sparrow	2, 9, 10	4, 2, 1	Andover	Brooks
Grasshopper Sparrow	6	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	Watson
Red Crossbill	1	6	Ward	Brooks

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 265

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** 001

**Total for the year 2007:** 266

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

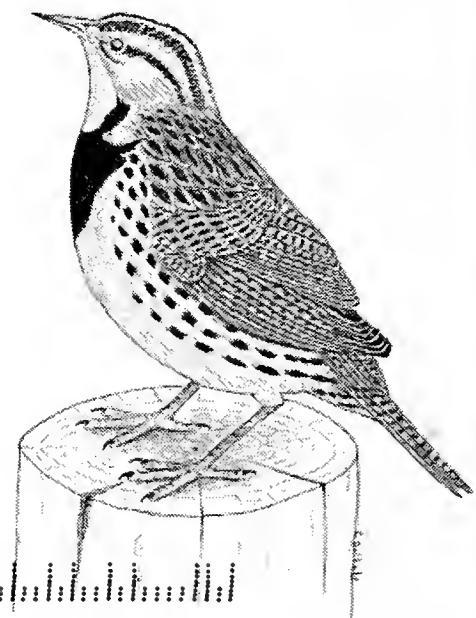
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BOS website

<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

## October – December Calendar

- Oct. 24: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Brianna Gary of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will discuss Avian Study Results from Wind Project Sites.

**Oct. 27: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants.** Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or [dannapotter@wzrd.com](mailto:dannapotter@wzrd.com)). Meet at 8 a.m. at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104.

**Nov. 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Kristina Klees of the University at Brockport's Department of Environmental Science and Biology will discuss her research on the topic of 'Habitat Selection of Shrubland Birds in the Great Lakes Plain Region of New York State: Implications for Conservation and Management'.

**Nov. 18: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. There is heightened security at the border. Bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Non-citizens should bring passports. Dress warmly. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or [mhsr@wzrd.com](mailto:mhsr@wzrd.com)) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)).

**Dec. 12: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.** Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship.

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 9 September, 2007

### THE MONTH: August

*Jerry Lazarczyk*

Paraphrasing Steve McLaughlin of the National Weather Service: It was a warm, dry August for the Buffalo area. August capped off the fine summer of 2007 with plenty of warmth and sunshine but resumed the very dry pattern established in May and June. In fact, it was the driest August in 50 years.

It was the warmest month of the summer with the average temperature of 72.4 degrees being some 3.3 degrees above normal. No records were set but 25 of the 31 days were warmer than usual. Twenty days reached at least 80 degrees with two eclipsing the ninety-degree mark. Five nights were over 70 degrees. The warmth was most noticeable during the first half of the month with the first 13 days all warm and averaging 5 degrees above normal. This was followed by several cool days from the 17-21<sup>st</sup> before warmer weather returned again for the final third of the month.

Rainfall was very sparse, totaling just 1.12 inches at the airport, the least in August since 1957. Most of this fell in a single hour on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with only a few spotty showers otherwise throughout the month. Our region was north of a ring of fire associated with stalled frontal systems to our south with near record rains from Ohio to Wisconsin. The sharp gradient extended across our southern tier which received as much as 6 inches during the month while most of Buffalo's northern suburbs caught less than an inch.

Sunshine, at 62 per cent of the possible, was near normal for the month. Sixteen days were mostly sunny while 8 were mostly cloudy. This included a 4 day stretch from 19-22<sup>nd</sup> and two rare sunless days on the 20-21<sup>st</sup>.

The month began with the hottest days of the summer on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 93 and 92 degrees respectively. The warmth continued through the 13<sup>th</sup> and did include some humidity

but was largely bearable as dew points stayed fairly modest. The pattern changed briefly at mid month as we were near the northern periphery of a stalled frontal system, close enough for cloudiness but not much rain. Some locally heavy showers did drop the only appreciable rain of the month during the afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> from Buffalo southward. The last ten days turned warm and generally sunny once again. The month ended with a glorious Labor Day weekend with sunshine and pleasantly warm temperatures.



*Sandhill Cranes (top; Harmony; Bob Lichorat; Aug. 14), American Avocet (bottom left; Batavia WWTP; first reported by John Welte and photographed by Jim Pawlicki; Aug. 25) and Solitary Sandpiper (bottom right; Port Colborne, Canada; Kayo Roy; Aug. 19).*

- |    |   |
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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrie  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
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survived well with the exception possibly of waterfowl. Yet this is the most uneventful month since I have been writing this column though it actually was a good month for me chasing birds statewide.

A Brant in July or August is beyond exceptional, no July or August records exist in the BOS database yet Pawlicki, Potter and D'Anna saw one on August 28th and Watson saw possibly the same one on August 29<sup>th</sup>, both observations in Olcott Harbor. The Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region by Beardslee and Mitchell (pre-1965) makes no mention of an August sighting.

An August Sandhill Crane is also an exceptional sighting in our Region - only one August record exists and that was August 18<sup>th</sup> of 1997 by Pratt at the Iroquois NWR. However, on August 14<sup>th</sup> two Sandhill Cranes were seen and photographed by Bob Lichorat in Harmony NY and four were seen at Haldimand Ontario on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The pre-1965 records show only 3 Sandhill Cranes identified in the 1880's and none since.

A Long-billed Dowitcher is an exceptional find for August with only two mentions in the BOS records. Paw-

Winds were light during August as usual while Lake Erie warmed to 77 degrees on the 8<sup>th</sup> before sliding back to 71 degrees by month's end, close to the normal of 72 degrees.

The summer of 2007 was a warm dry and relatively sunny one across Western New York. Rainfall, or lack of it, was the big story this summer. Only 6.26 inches fell during the three months at Buffalo, the 2<sup>nd</sup> least in 55 years. Almost a third of the rain fell in a couple of hours on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Including the dry May, the 4 month period from May 1-August 31 was Buffalo's driest in 66 years and 4<sup>th</sup> driest in the 137 years of record.

All in all, a great summer for birding activities but it was getting a bit too dry by the end of August.

Because of the warmth and dryness I expected that birds in general would have sur-

ived well with the exception possibly of waterfowl. Yet this is the most uneventful month since I have been writing this column though it actually was a good month for me chasing birds statewide.

icki and D'Anna verified their sighting at Goose Pond in the Iroquois NWR on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Both Pawlicki and D'Anna included photos and detailed descriptions of the bird that they had seen. Beardslee and Mitchell (pre-1965) called the Long-billed Dowitcher Occasional very rare. However, sightings on August 27th 1942, August 28<sup>th</sup> 1949 and August 19<sup>th</sup> 1956 were specifically noted in their text.

An American Avocet is very rare in August but John Welte verified one at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on August 25<sup>th</sup>. He described it as a tall white wading bird that had black wings with a white mark. This is certainly different from the summer plumage Avocets seen in our region a little earlier in the year that exhibited a rich cinnamon head and neck. Afterwards, the Avocet was verified by other birders (see photo above) and seen by many birders, especially after being called into the BOS's One-Call system.

A Peregrine Falcon is a very rare sighting in August and one was verified at Rockhouse (just outside Rock Point Provincial Park Ontario) on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Recent changes to the Verification Date Guide exclude the requirement for Verification Reports for the Buffalo and Niagara Falls areas during the breeding season as the Peregrines have nested in those two areas for years.

A Marbled Godwit is very rare for the latter half of August. Mike Hamilton verified one in Ridgeway Ontario on August 19<sup>th</sup> during the Buffalo Ornithological Society's annual shorebird count.

I want to thank David Suggs for supplying BOS records upon my request from the BOS database maintained by him.

The following sources were used in this report:

Beardslee, C.S. and Mitchell, H.D. 1965, Birds of the Niagara Frontier, Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of the Natural Sciences (Buffalo Museum of Science) Volume 22.

DiTommaso D., Suggs D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database 1964-2006.

National Weather Service, August 2007, Buffalo, New York.

Suggs, David, et al. Seasonal Checklist of the Birds, The Niagara Frontier Region. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc. 2002.

Morgante, Michael, et al, Verification Date Guide To the Birds of Western New York & Adjacent Ontario, Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc. 8<sup>th</sup> Edition Revised 2006.

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F - Indicates first record for the migration.

L - Indicates last record for the migration.

(f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.

PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

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<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Brant	<u>28F</u> ; 29	1	Olcott Harbor	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al; Watson
Mute Swan	31	2	Somerset	Watson
Northern Shoveler	19	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson
"	28	35	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Redhead	4, 8	2, 3	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	4, 18	2, 2	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Bufflehead	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Ruddy Duck	4, 18	31, 27	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	31	4	Somerset	Watson
Eared Grebe	25; 26	2; 3	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki; Watson
Great Egret	4; 28	196; 223	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg; Watson
"	18	20	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
Osprey	3, 15, 28	2, 4, 2	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Bald Eagle	13	1 ad	Pinehurst	Andrle et al
"	26	1 ad	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Northern Goshawk	8	1	Almond	Brooks
Merlin	17 - 29	3 max	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	26F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Peregrine Falcon	10	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	<u>11</u>	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Virginia Rail	4	6	Tonawanda WMA	Yoerg
<u>Sandhill Crane</u>	14	2	Harmony	Lichorat
"	<u>26</u>	4	Haldimand (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Black-bellied Plover	19, 26	46, 68	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	26	2	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
<u>American Avocet</u>	25; 26	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Welte, Pawlicki; Watson, Lazarczyk, D'Anna et al
Solitary Sandpiper	3	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	12	2	Machias	Baird et al
"	21	4	Tifft NP	Watson
Upland Sandpiper	11	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Whimbrel	3	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
Marbled Godwit	<u>19</u>	1	Windmill Point (Ont)	Hamilton
Semipalm. Sandpiper	6	127	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson
White-r. Sandpiper	3F	1	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
"	8	1	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	26	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Baird's Sandpiper	11F, 26	2, 2	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson, D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg
"	3	3	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	5	1	Kiantone	Berry

<u>Species</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Stilt Sandpiper	11F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12,18;26	3, 1; 4	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson; Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Buff-br. Sandpiper	26F	1	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Short-b. Dowitcher	26	5	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna et al
"	18; 26	7; 25	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson; Watson, D'Anna et al
* <u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	26	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
Wilson's Phalarope	11	2	Dunnville	Yoerg, Henderson
Common Tern	11; 19	300; 90	Long Beach CA (Ont)	Yoerg; Watson
Common Nighthawk	21F	1	Alabama	Watson
"	24; 27	2; 5	Amherst SP	Salembier
Whip-poor-will	3	5	Wainfleet (Ont)	Yoerg
Red-headed Wdpkr	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
".	19	1	Crystal Beach (Ont)	Morgante
Olive-s. Flycatcher	24F	2	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
Least Flycatcher	21F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Yellow-thr. Vireo	31F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	31F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	11	2	Andover	Brooks
Cliff Swallow	14	2	Buffalo Harbor	Andrle
"	14	Ad+yg@n	W. Side Rowing Club	Andrle
Red-br. Nuthatch	27F	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Carolina Wren	6	2	Mohawk Pt. (Ont)	Watson
"	21	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Watson
"	23 - 31	2	Eden	Andrle
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	21, 24	1, 3	Tifft NP	Watson
Veery	27F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Northern Mockingbird	31	1	Hartland	Watson
Tennessee Warbler	18F, 19	1, 1	Alfred	Brooks
Northern Parula	31F	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Chestnut-s. Warbler	19F	1	Mohawk Pt. (Ont)	Watson et al
Magnolia Warbler	19F	1	Mohawk Pt. (Ont)	Watson et al
Cape May Warbler	21F; 22	2; 2	Tifft NP	Watson, Pawlicki et al
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	20F	1	St. Davids (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki
"	27	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	19F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
Blackburnian Warbler	19F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	24	2	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Watson, Pawlicki
Pine Warbler	30F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	31	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Bay-breasted Warbler	24F	1	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
Blackpoll Warbler	22F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Black-&-white Warb.	19F	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson et al
"	24	1	Delaware Pk, Bflo.	Watson et al
Ovenbird	28F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Waterthrush	27F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Hooded Warbler	29F	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	24F	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Canada Warbler	15F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	19	2	Mohawk Pt. (Ont)	Watson et al
Bobolink	26	32	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Baltimore Oriole	4	35	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	20	Tifft NP	Watson

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**266**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**003**

**Total for the year 2007:**

**269**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

## New Nesting Platform Installed at Buckhorn Island SP to Provide Alternate Nesting Location for Large Raptors

The welcome mat is out for ospreys, a large bird of prey, whose long absence from the upper Niagara River was one of varied environmental issues examined during relicensing process for the New York Power Authority's (NYPA) Niagara Power Project here, with the statewide public power utility committing to install pole-mounted platforms at suitable nesting locations. What the Power Authority and New York State environmental and parks officials and others couldn't know at the time was that ospreys would build a nest this year on a National Grid electric transmission tower at Buckhorn Island State Park (photo below), one of the designated areas for the platform, providing a serendipitous opportunity for accelerating the initiative.

A four-by-four foot platform, attached to a 70-foot pole, was installed by National Grid workers, in clear view of the tower where a pair of adult osprey is nesting no more than 200 feet away, and may have incubated eggs. National Grid donated the pole and labor for this project.



*A pair of osprey chose a National Grid tower at Buckhorn Island State Park for building a nest this year. On Aug. 9, the utility teamed up with the New York Power Authority and state environmental and park agencies for installation of a nearby platform, to provide an alternate nesting location when the ospreys return next year for their seasonal migration. In September, National Grid will transfer materials from the nest to the newly-erected platform.*

"What we're doing is giving the osprey an alternate nesting location on the chance they'll acclimate to it before their fall migration to Central and South America, taking into account the habit of the species for returning to the same nesting area each spring in the Northern U.S. states," said Jeff Gerlach, environmental scientist, NYPA. "Even if these specific raptors do not, this platform has all the attributes ospreys like, as far as elevation for sighting other avian predators, and proximity to open waters—in this case, the Niagara River,

where they can dive for fish." The platform is one of five NYPA is planning over the next few years for attracting ospreys to the upper river corridor where their existence was not unusual at one time. The platforms collectively comprise one of eight Habitat Improvement Projects, or HIPs, NYPA agreed to for the Niagara project's new license, in consultation with the DEC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), and other resource agencies and environmental groups.

Nesting birds on transmission towers can disrupt insulators and other electrical equipment and, in worst cases, lead to power disturbances. Since the late 1970s, National Grid has, in consultation with federal and state environmental and wildlife agencies, moved dozens of nests and created artificial nest platforms and modified trees to encourage nesting in other parts of the state. In September, the company will transfer twigs and other materials from the transmission tower at Buckhorn Island State Park to the newly erected platform.

In past years, the DEC installed two osprey nesting platforms at Buckhorn Island State Park, an 895-acre area at the northwest point of Grand Island, consisting of marsh, meadows and woods. "While those platforms haven't led to nests yet, the discovery of ospreys on the Grid tower is a positive sign for reintroducing the species to the area. Our hope is that enhanced wetland and aquatic-habitat improvement projects like those planned by NYPA will contribute to drawing ospreys and other wildlife to Buckhorn Marsh and other habitats along the upper Niagara River corridor," said Mark Kandell, DEC regional wildlife manager.

"We are pleased that these ospreys have found their home in Buckhorn Island State Park, and that NYPA and National Grid are taking measures to provide them with the safety they need to continue their future nesting here," said Mark Thomas, director of the Western Region of OPRHP.

He also noted that bald eagles have nested at Navy Island in Ontario, across from Buckhorn Marsh, providing the possibility that they might utilize the new osprey platform, or the two previously installed by DEC at the park preserve.

Pole-mounted platforms have been successfully used for establishment of osprey nests near Lakes Erie and Ontario, the St. Lawrence River and in other parts of the state. They include one at the Power Authority's St. Lawrence-Franklin D. Roosevelt Project in Northern New York, one of several the Authority has erected at riverfront sites.

News release from <http://www.nypa.gov/press/2007/07080809a.htm>. Michael Saltzman; 914-390-8181; [michael.saltzman@nypa.gov](mailto:michael.saltzman@nypa.gov)

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## October – December Calendar

**BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Nov. 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Kristina Klees of the University at Brockport's Department of Environmental Science and Biology will discuss her research on the topic of "Habitat Selection of Shrubland Birds in the Great Lakes Plain Region of New York State: Implications for Conservation and Management".

**Nov. 18: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. There is heightened security at the border. Bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Non-citizens should bring passports. Dress warmly. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

**Dec. 12: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.** Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship.

# The PROTHONOTARY



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### THE MONTH: September

*Tim Baird*

For those of us who enjoy a mild end to summer, September 2007 was a charitable month. Summer's trend of warm and dry slid into September's official start to autumn with little noticeable change. McLaughlin's National Weather Service summary of September's weather in the Buffalo area verifies this assessment, "The warm, dry and sunny September capped off an extended summer this year in western New York."

It is getting routine to say that recent months rank near the warmest in decades for the region. This year was the tenth warmest September in 136 years in Buffalo. The first week ended in a heat wave with two days topping 90° F. The 91° F reached on September 7<sup>th</sup> was a Buffalo record for the date. With a mean temperature of 66.1° F, September 2007 was 4.6° F above the average for September.

Rainfall was only slightly below normal (0.29 inches below the average 3.84 inches). However, prior to receiving nearly an inch of rain during September 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup>, September conditions were "extremely dry" according to McLaughlin.

September skies were open to 69% of the possible sunshine, 12 points higher than average. Only 4 days were categorized as mostly cloudy by the National Weather Service. The sunny and warm weather slowed Lake Erie's cooling. A water temperature of 67° F at month's end was 3° F above normal.

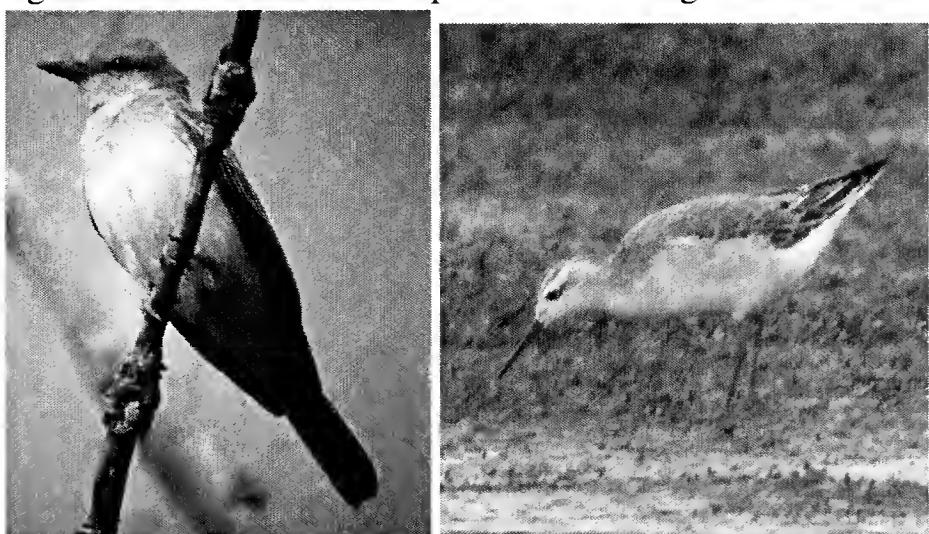
Connecting weather conditions to bird observations can be challenging. During a migration month such as September, movements of large air masses and associated fronts have a strong influence on bird movement. A cool air mass

came into western New York near mid-month, but both the start and end of September saw little in the manner of major air mass movements.

A warming earth is a concern for many peo-

ple. Changes in bird distribution are likely as climate changes, and evidence for this is mounting according to Dr. Galbraith who was the keynote speaker at the New York State Ornithology Association, Inc. Annual Meeting in Batavia hosted by the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Such evidence notwithstanding, it would be a real stretch to consider the Nutmeg Mannikin observed by Watson, *et al* in Ontario on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September a harbinger of things to come. Native to southeast Asia, this species has bred in Florida. A red leg band on the Ontario bird strongly suggests it was an escape. The unexpected is the spice of birding.

More to the norm, observers during September reported a good mix of birds in the BOS region. One of the highlights has to be Watson's reports of Great Egrets at the



*Western Kingbird (top left; Port Weller, Ontario; Jim Pawlicki; Sept 10), Wilson's Phalarope (top right; Oak Orchard WMA; Jim Pawlicki; Sept. 8) and Red-necked Phalarope (bottom right; Hamburg; Jerry Lazarczyk; Sept. 18).*

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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contrary, the 14 thrashers is an unexpected and encouraging number for a declining species.

Noteworthy shorebirds included Long-billed Dowitchers, two seen at Rock Point Provincial Park on September 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yoerg and two more seen on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Oak Orchard WMA observed by Watson, *et al.* What are the chances that the latter two were the same birds as the Ontario duo? Single Red-necked Phalaropes visited Tifft NP (Salembier, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>) and Lakeside Memorial Park (Andrle, *et. al.*, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>). American Golden-Plovers turned up in good numbers after mid-month in several locations.

A Western Kingbird seen and photographed at Port Weller, Ontario on September 10<sup>th</sup> by Jim Pawlicki was the year's first for this western vagrant in the region. His detailed verification description included a comparison of its "more robin-like flight" as distinct from the Eastern Kingbird's characteristic flight on vibrating wingtips. From his observations of its plumage, Pawlicki concluded this was a hatch-year bird. It is not uncommon for vagrant species to be young birds. Inexperience likely plays a role in their misdirection, or perhaps it's adolescent wanderlust.

Tonawanda WMA with a maximum of 218 found on the 11<sup>th</sup>. One or two of that species visiting the Allegheny Plateau of the southern tier is cause for excitement. The Snowy Egret seen at Tifft NP through mid-month is very rare in the Chautauqua-Allegheny Region and would be a new species for Cattaraugus County and gives us highlanders something to look forward to.

My pick for other noteworthy assemblages include 250 Green-winged Teal (D'Anna, *et al.*) at Oak Orchard WMA on September 15<sup>th</sup>, and 47 Black-bellied Plovers at Dunnville, Ontario on the 2<sup>nd</sup> observed by Yoerg and Henderson. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, Pawlicki reported 230 Mourning Doves in Clarence and 14 Brown Thrashers in Amherst. The large number of Mourning Doves grabs one's attention, but is not unexpected for this abundant species. To the

All-in-all, September was a good warbler month with observers reporting 26 species. In conjunction with a cooler air mass that arrived during the week previous, Salembier had a banner day on September 15<sup>th</sup> at Tifft NP. He observed 15 species of warbler for the day including an Orange-crowned Warbler, 28 Nashville Warblers, and 12 Wilson's Warblers. Salembier also reported a Golden-winged Warbler at Amherst State Park on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. This species is becoming rare, and a statewide decline is documented by the 2000-2005 New York Breeding Bird Atlas data (link at [www.nybirds.org](http://www.nybirds.org)).

Another example of the differences in bird occurrences between the lower elevations along the lake plains and the higher elevations to the south in western New York are the mid-September occurrences of Yellow Warblers. Tifft NP produced three on the 15<sup>th</sup> as reported by Salembier. On the southern plateau, this common species and the Tree Swallow migrate away from the region shortly after completing nesting and are rarely noted after early August (Eaton, 1981).

Thrushes appeared in good numbers after the second week of September and included an impressive 55 Swainson's Thrushes heard as night migrants over Tonawanda on the 26<sup>th</sup> by Hess. Beattie reported 16 Scarlet Tanagers in Bethany on September 11<sup>th</sup>, and he found only one there on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Coincidentally, McLaughlin's weather summary includes, "The Heat was broken by a strong thunderstorm on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> bringing some damaging winds and a pattern change to cooler weather for the next week."

One of many species declining in North America, three early Rusty Blackbirds were seen by several observers at Tifft NP on September 13<sup>th</sup> and verified by Pawlicki and Watson. Another early bird was a Lapland Longspur seen with Horned Larks on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month in the Town of Porter. In addition to a detailed plumage description, D'Anna's verification for the bird distinguished it from the associated Horned Larks by size and behavior while feeding in a "graded and recently planted field".

September is a transition month for nature and nature enthusiasts. September 2007 made the transition from summer to autumn a soft one.

Eaton, Stephen W. 1981. Birds of Cattaraugus County New York. *Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences* 12:61.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cackling Goose	<u>16</u>	2	Clarence	Pawlicki
"	<u>30</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna, Potter
Wood Duck	18	298	Alexander	Beattie
Northern Shoveler	20, 30	161, 152	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Pintail	29	158	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Green-winged Teal	15	250	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	29	85	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Ring-necked Duck	20, 30	3, 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Greater Scaup	20F	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	28	8	Wilson	Watson, Potter et al
Lesser Scaup	29F	7	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Surf Scoter	28F	3	Olcott	Pawlicki, Watson
"	29	3	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
White-winged Scoter	15F; 29	16; 158	Golden Hill SP	Watson; D'Anna, Potter
"	28	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
Black Scoter	29F	8	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Bufflehead	2	1	Port Colborne (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Red-br. Merganser	29F	81	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Ruddy Duck	16	45	Alexander	Beattie
"	20, 30	39, 82	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Loon	15F	14	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Pied-billed Grebe	20	33	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Red-necked Grebe	<u>29F</u>	9	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Eared Grebe	1 - 30	1 - 3	Batavia WWTP	D'Anna, Watson et al
D.-crested Cormorant	2, 11	404, 600	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	6	765	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Great Egret	4, 11, 20	199,218,112	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
"	15	4	Tifft NP	Salembier, Dievendorf
Snowy Egret	<u>8 - 13</u>	1	Tifft NP	Landau et al; Pawlicki, Watson
Osprey	27	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	9	1 ad	Allegany SP	Baird
"	15	4	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	30	1 ad	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg, Henderson
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	2	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	13; 16	1; 1 juv	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson; Morgante
Merlin	2	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	4, 8, 15	1, 1, 1	Alabama Swamp complex	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	8	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	2	Port Weller (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	28	1	Porter	D'Anna
Peregrine Falcon	4; 8	1 imm; 1 ad	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna; D'Anna et al
"	22	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	23	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Andrle
Peregrine Falcon	28	1 ad	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
Sandhill Crane	1	2	Watts Flats	Pawlicki
"	4	5	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	23	5	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
Black-bellied Plover	2; 23	47; 23	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al; Yoerg, Henderson
Amer. Golden-Plover	2	13	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	15	13	Clarence	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	5	Barre	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	28	16	Olcott	Pawlicki, Watson
"	28	32	Porter	D'Anna
Killdeer	2	120	Dunnville (Ont)	Watson et al
* Red Knot	2F	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson, Rothman et al
Sanderling	23	55	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
White-r. Sandpiper	2	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie, Dart
Baird's Sandpiper	2	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Morgante
"	2	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
"	2	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	4; 6	2; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al; Beattie, Dart
"	5; 13	1; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier; Watson et al
"	15	1	Barre	Watson, D'Anna et al
Pectoral Sandpiper	15; 30	16; 5	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson et al; Yoerg et al
Stilt Sandpiper	1	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	2	3	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg
"	4; 6	1; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson; Beattie, Dart
Buff-br. Sandpiper	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Short-b. Dowitcher	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	4	11	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson et al
"	6	2	Tonawanda WMA	Beattie, Dart
"	15; 22	2; 1	Tifft NP	Salembier, Dievendorf; Salembier
<u>Long-b. Dowitcher</u>	2	2	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Yoerg
"	4	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson et al
Wilson's Phalarope	8L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
* Red-neck. Phalarope	15	1	Tifft NP	Salembier, Dievendorf
"	18 - 19	1	Lakeside Memorial Pk	Andrle, Watson, Zebehazy, Landau et al
* Parasitic Jaeger	26	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Andrle
<u>Jaeger species</u>	15	1	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	22	3	Athol Springs	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-b. Gull	2F	1	Morgan's Pt. (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	2F	1	Pinecrest Pt. (Ont)	D'Anna et al
"	20	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	28	2	Olcott	Watson, Pawlicki
Mourning Dove	16	230	Clarence	Pawlicki
Common Nighthawk	3 - 18	1 - 4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	4	55	Buffalo	Yoerg, Henderson
"	5	7	Allegany SP	Baird
"	16	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Red-headed Wdpkr.	13	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	18	1 imm	Lakeside Memorial Pk.	Pawlicki, Watson
Olive-s. Flycatcher	4	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	9	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	16	1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	23L	1	Charlotte	Rew

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Eastern Wood-Pewee	27	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow-b. Flycatcher	2F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Watson, Rothman et al
"	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	21L	1	Williamsville	Salembier, Pawlicki
Least Flycatcher	19L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Gr. Cr. Flycatcher	12	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	12	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	13L	1	Tifft NP	Watson
* <u>Western Kingbird</u>	10	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Pawlicki
Eastern Kingbird	8L	2	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna et al
Warbling Vireo	15; 16	3; 2	Tifft NP	Dievendorf; Morgante
"	16	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	16	1	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter
"	21L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	8	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	14	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	16	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	20	2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Red-eyed Vireo	4	22	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	15	3	Charlotte	Rew
"	16, 28	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
"	30	1	Salamanca	Baird
Horned Lark	21	45	Porter	D'Anna
Bank Swallow	15L	1	Tonawanda WMA	D'Anna
Carolina Wren	2	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson et al
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	24	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	28	1	Wilson	Watson
Winter Wren	9F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Golden-cr. Kinglet	24F	1	Wilson	Potter
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	9F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	9F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	2	Tifft NP	Dievendorf, Sweeney
Veery	12	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Gray-cheeked Thrush	11F	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	13 - 30	1 - 4	Throughout WNY	Several observers
"	26	8	Tonawanda	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	1F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	13	2	Tifft NP	Watson
"	26	55	Tonawanda	Hess
Hermit Thrush	13F	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson
"	16	1	Wilson	Potter
Brown Thrasher	16	14	Amherst	Pawlicki
American Pipit	15F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	23	10	Dunnville (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Golden-wing. Warbler	4F	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Orange-cr. Warbler	15F, 20	1, 1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Nashville Warbler	3F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
"	13;15,22	11; 28, 17	Tifft NP	Watson; Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Northern Parula	13; 15	1; 3	Tifft NP	Watson et al; Salembier
"	15	1	Golden Hill SP	Potter
"	27	2	Williamsville	Salembier
Yellow Warbler	15	1	Golden Hill SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	15	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson et al
"	15; 16L	3; 2	Tifft NP	Salembier; Morgante
Chestnut-s. Warbler	15	10	Tifft NP	Salembier
Magnolia Warbler	15; 16	22; 12	Tifft NP	Salembier; Morgante
Cape May Warbler	9	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	9	5	Allegany SP	Baird
"	29	1	Williamsville	Salembier
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	9	2	Wilson	Potter
"	15	5	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	15	1	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Yellow-r. Warbler	2F	1	Rock Point PP (Ont)	Pawlicki, D'Anna et al
"	8	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Bl.-thr. Green Warb.	9	5	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	15, 22	12, 10	Tifft NP	Salembier
Blackburnian Warbler	16	1	Goat I.	D'Anna, Potter
"	24	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Warbler	1	1	Pt. Gratiot	Mosher, Chilton
"	3	1	Fort Niagara SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	9, 11, 29	1, 1, 1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	28	1	Wilson	Potter
Palm Warbler	9F	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	16, 23	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	13; 15	8; 5	Tifft NP	Pawlicki et al; Salembier
Blackpoll Warbler	11 - 16	2 - 12	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	21	1	Bethany	Beattie
Black-&-white Warb.	8	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna et al
"	11; 15	1; 3	Tifft NP	Watson; Salembier
"	21	2	Bethany	Beattie
Ovenbird	11; 16	1; 1	Tifft NP	Watson; Morgante
"	25	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Waterthrush	3; 5	1; 1	Amherst SP	Salembier; Pawlicki et al
"	9	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Mourning Warbler	14	2	Bethany	Beattie
"	23L	2	Allegany SP	Baird
Hooded Warbler	8	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
"	11	1	Wilson	Potter
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	28L	1	Allegany SP	Baird
Wilson's Warbler	10	1	Pomfret	Mosher
"	14	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	15,22	12, 2	Tifft NP	Salembier
Canada Warbler	9	2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Scarlet Tanager	27	2	Williamsville	Beattie
"	30	2	Amherst	Pawlicki
Lincoln's Sparrow	1F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher, Chilton
"	5	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	9, 21	1, 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	16, 23	2, 1	Allegany SP	Baird

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
White-thr. Sparrow	6F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	6F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
White-cr. Sparrow	29F	7	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	3	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg, Henderson
Dark-eyed Junco	20F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Lapland Longspur	<u>21F</u>	1	Porter	D'Anna
Rusty Blackbird	<u>13F</u>	3	Tifft NP	Pawlicki, Watson et al
"	15; 16	8; 6	Tifft NP	Dievendorf; Morgante
Purple Finch	30	2	Amherst	Pawlicki

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** **269**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** **004**

**Total for the year 2007:** **273**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

## 2007 Christmas Bird Counts

**December 16: Sunday. BOS Buffalo, NY Count.** Compiler: Bill Bogacki (435-4426).

**December 16: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: MarcieJacklin(mjacklin@brocku.ca or 905-871-2577).

**December 22: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler: Garner Light (772-5110 or garnerlight@hotmail.com).

**December 22: Saturday. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Paul Fehringer (585-457-3228; fehringer@buffaloaudubon.org). Meet 7:30 AM at Audobon Cntr.

**December 27: Thursday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler: Gail Seamans (585-937-5105 or gails@netacc.net).

**December 28: Friday. Niagara Falls ON-NY CBC.** Contact Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or dannapotter@roadrunner.com) to work on the NY side. Contact Kayo Roy (905-892-4433 or kayloroy@niagara.com) to work on the Canadian side. All payments and data go to the compiler, Kayo Roy, 13 Kinsman Court, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada L0S 1E3.

**December 29: Saturday. Hamburg - East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell (284-5569 or tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
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Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Nov. 14: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Kristina Klees of the University at Brockport's Department of Environmental Science and Biology will discuss her research on the topic of "Habitat Selection of Shrubland Birds in the Great Lakes Plain Region of New York State: Implications for Conservation and Management".

**Nov. 18: Sunday. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. There is heightened security at the border. Bring at least two forms of ID including photo ID and proof of citizenship, such as birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card. Non-citizens should bring passports. Dress warmly. Leaders: BOS Mike Hamilton (881-6709 or mhsr@wzrd.com) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or RSPAHN@prodigy.net).

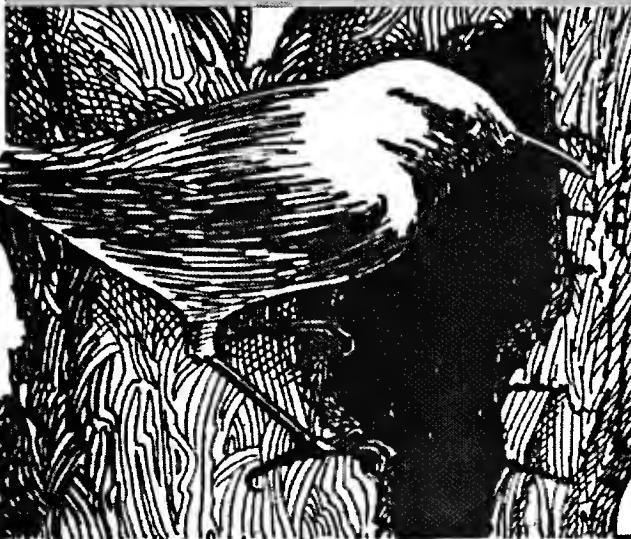
**Nov. 24: SATURDAY. Niagara River field trip from Fort Erie to Niagara on-the-Lake for ducks, gulls, and other waterbirds.** Meet at 8:00 am at Vermont and Busti in Buffalo where we will then proceed over the Peace Bridge into Fort Erie, ON. There is heightened security at the border, so please bring at least two forms of identification including photo ID and proof of citizenship (birth certificate, passport, or voter registration card). Dress warmly. This will be an all day trip. Leader: Jim Pawlicki (289-2204 or jmpawli88@aol.com).

**Dec. 12: Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Science Museum.** Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship.

**Jan. 23: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Tom Somerville (NYS DEC fish and Wildlife Technician) and Connie Adams (NYS DEC Wildlife Biologist) will discuss "What are the Buffalo Peregrines Eating?" They have very interesting wing and tail measurements for some of the BOS bird experts to help them identify.

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# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 11 November, 2007

### THE MONTH: October

*Bill Watson*

**The Weather:** It was the warmest October in sixty years, and the third warmest in 137 years of Buffalo records, with only 1900 and 1947 being higher. Our “endless summer” continued with an average temperature of 58.8 °F (8.1 °F above normal) making the autumn foliage remain more than two weeks later than normal. The first nine days of the month were 14 °F warmer than normal. After a slight cool down, unseasonably warm weather again returned between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was not until the 29<sup>th</sup> that a widespread frost ended the abnormally long growing season. The May to October average temperature was 65.9 °F, making it the warmest six-month period in Buffalo history, and breaking the 1959 record of 65.7 °F. This unusually warm weather was at least partially responsible for lingering migrants and unusually late birds such as White-eyed Vireo on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Baltimore Oriole on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and twenty Bobolinks on the October 14<sup>th</sup> Count.

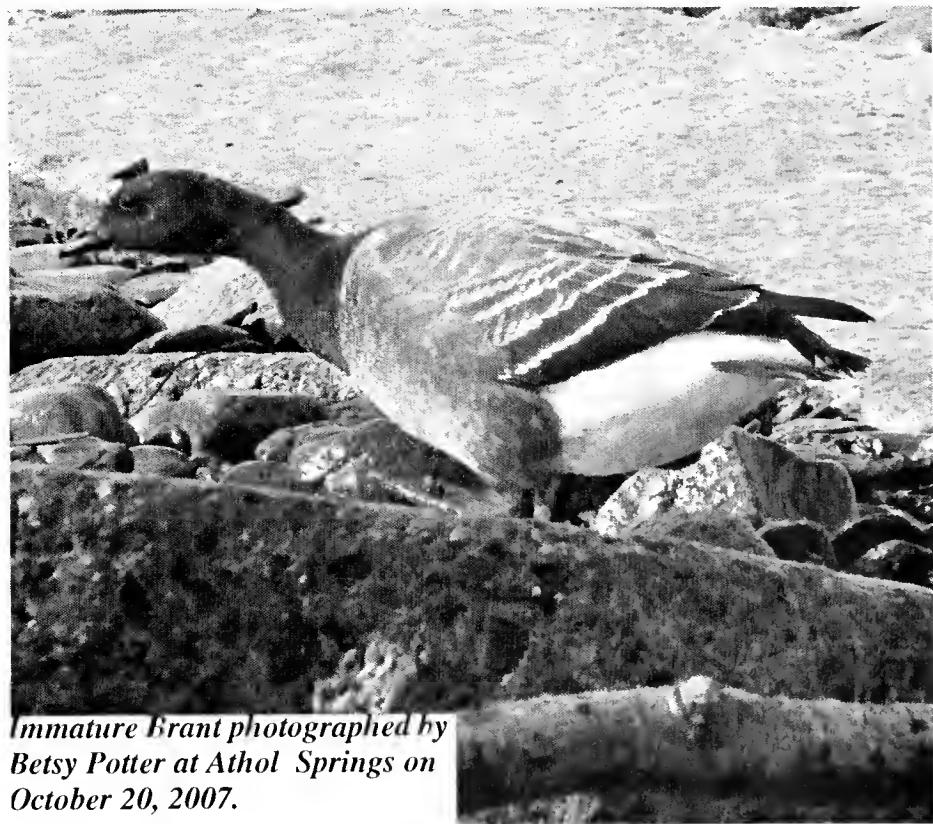
The 2.73 inches of rainfall was only 0.46 below normal. The 0.87 inches of rain falling on the 23<sup>rd</sup> eased drought conditions somewhat, but the region was still in moderate drought status for most of the month. October was fairly cloudy with only 41% of the possible sunshine, about nine points less than average. The high winds with a peak gust of 44 mph and a bearing of 230° (approximately from the southwest) on the 27<sup>th</sup> produced a jaeger species and a Little Gull at Athol Springs, while winds with a peak gust of 26 mph bearing 300° on the 28<sup>th</sup> resulted in a Parasitic Jaeger at Golden Hill State Park and another jaeger species at Four Mile Creek State Park, both on the south shore of Lake Ontario.

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**Early Arrivals:**  
There were no earlier than expected migrants requiring verification report in October. The

Brant observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> at Olcott is the only bird possibly worthy of mention. Was the lack of early arrivals partially caused by the extremely warm weather?

**Late Departures:** In contrast, there were three late migrants requiring verification reports. At Tifft Nature Preserve a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was examined by Debbie Sharon on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Richard Salembier on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The only later fall Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found at Rock Point Provincial Park on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in 2003 by Willie D’Anna. The flock of twenty **Bobolinks** found by the Ziebarths and others on the October 14<sup>th</sup> Count found on Gorton Road near Ledge Road in the Town of Alabama is our most late record for this species. There are five other early October records, and all but one is of a single bird. Finally, on the 26<sup>th</sup> in Williamsville, Richard Salembier described a “Cardinal size” ... “orange” bird in his back yard that he identified as an immature **Baltimore Oriole**. This is the latest record of this species in 32 years. In 2005 Betsy Potter observed a Baltimore Oriole on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. These unusually late records over the last two years



*Immature Brant photographed by Betsy Potter at Athol Springs on October 20, 2007.*

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Please mail correspondence to:  
Jack Skalicky  
178 N. Main Street #55  
Salt Lake City, UT 84103-2075  
[Email] [skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)  
Ed. Consultants: Robert Andrle  
Gerry Rising  
William Watson  
Proth. Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Eileen Hull

#### Society Officers:

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V. President: Michael Morgante  
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2006-2008	Douglas Beattie Lynne Landon Elizabeth Wells
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begs the question: Is Baltimore Oriole going to return to the late fall and winter status it enjoyed forty years ago?

**Unusually high counts:** The 93 Pied-billed Grebes on Chautauqua Lake at Mayville on the 28<sup>th</sup> is only bettered by the 192 Pied-billed Grebes on Chautauqua Lake at Celeron on November 10, 2005. The four Eared Grebes observed at Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant on the 6<sup>th</sup> ties the previous October high. The 112 Great Egrets counted at Tonawanda WMA is far more than the previous October high of 33 observed at Iroquois NWR on October 3, 1999. (Note: this enormous increase is primarily a result of finding a night roost location.) Strong west-northwest winds on the 28<sup>th</sup> not only brought in jaegers for Yoerg and Henderson at Four Mile Creek State Park and D'Anna and Potter at Golden Hill State Park, but also large

numbers of Dunlin (200 at Four Mile Creek S. P. and 230 at Golden Hill S. P.). The only prior fall count greater than 230 was 250 at St. David's, Ontario, on October 24, 1972. The thirteen Northern Saw-whet Owls banded by Dave Junkin his station in Wethersfield the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> is also a very impressive count.

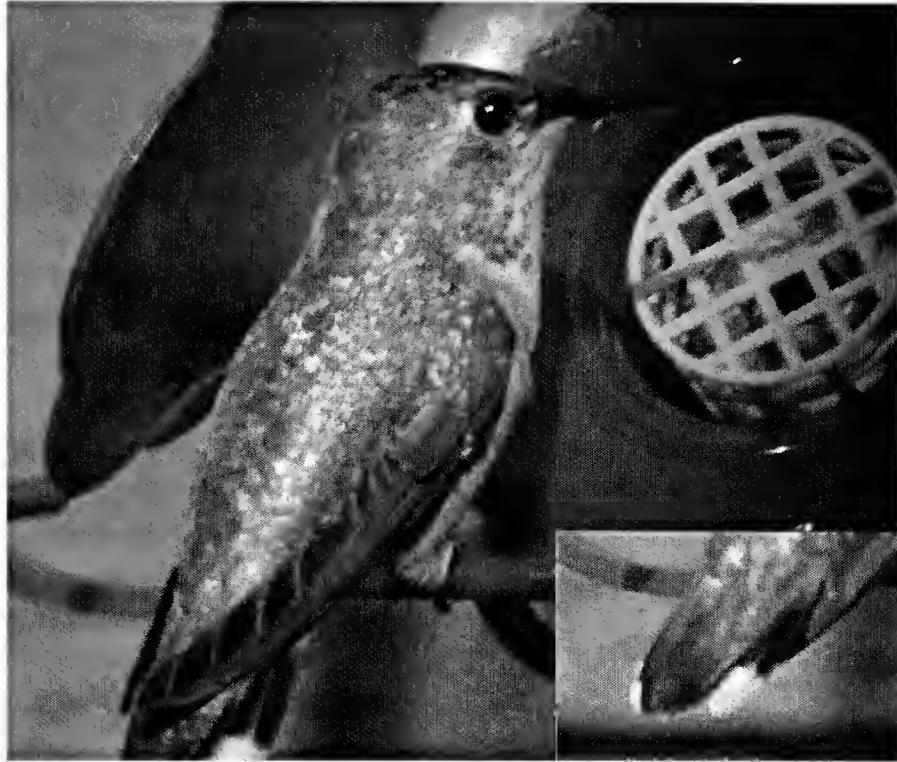
**Rarities:** Four of the rarities always required written verification reports: Yellow (Eastern) subspecies of Palm Warbler, Rufous Hummingbird, Ross's Goose, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Richard Salembier and Jim Pawlicki both noted the yellowish supercilium, bright yellow throat, breast, sides, belly, flanks, and undertail coverts of a *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* (**Yellow or Eastern Palm Warbler**) found at Amherst State Park. There are only two previous fall records of this subspecies and the October 24<sup>th</sup> record is the latest, documented record. If the Eastern Palm Warbler was the subspecies of the month, the hatch year female **Rufous Hummingbird** was the species of the month. This hummingbird was making frequent visits to the feeders at the home of Larry Wilson, who lives at 9705 Main Street (Route 19) Houghton, New York. There have

been only two other documented Rufous Hummingbirds in the BOS area, both recent, one in Colden, New York, in 1996 and one in Niagara Falls, Ontario, in 2004. Although both a male and a female were observed in Houghton, only the female was successfully documented by observers. First year female Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds are very similar; a most reliable field mark is the widths and shapes of the tail feathers. When this bird was banded by Erin Karnatz she confirmed the Rufous' identification. If anyone observed the less cooperative male, please submit a written verification report of your observations. If accepted, this would be the first record of two Rufous Hummingbirds at one location in our area. On the 12<sup>th</sup> at Port Weller, Ontario, Jim Pawlicki found a bird "about the overall size and shape of a Swamp Sparrow," but "the supercilium, lores, malar, throat, and lower edge of the auriculars were a rich orange buff." His further description left no doubt that this bird was a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**. There are only four later autumn records of this species. On the October 14<sup>th</sup> Count, Mike Morgante found a **Ross's Goose** in the Town of Bennington. This is the first October Count record of Ross's Goose. The only other October record of a Ross's Goose is from a single bird in Cold Springs, Cattaraugus County on October 7 and 9, 1992.

In past Octobers, we usually had a half dozen or so "all year" rarities that required verification reports. This October we had only four. I believe this decrease is largely the result of widespread changes in the writeup dates in the new 2006 Verification Date Guide. The Cackling Geese, Cattle Egret, and Eared Grebes reported in this issue would have been "all year" verification reports in previous years. Under last years guidelines there would have been seven "all year" verification reports. Finding a bird that now necessitates an "all year" verification report is a remarkable find, and you should take a considerable amount of pride in writing that report.

The White-eyed Vireo found by Richard Salembier at Tifft NP is only the sixth fall migrant to be found in our area since 1963. Curiously, four of the six record have occurred in the last three years. Although this at first looks like a trend of this species increasing in the fall, since all four recent reports are from Tifft Nature Preserve, it may represent the behavior of one anomalous individual White-eyed Vireo! The five Sandhill Cranes found at North Feeder Marsh on the Tonawanda WMA are our first October record of this species in Noteworthy Records database. This sighting was complemented by October Count records of five Sandhill Cranes found at Goose Pond at the Oak Orchard WMA, three in Fort Erie and two more on Meadows Road in South Cayuga. Previous to 2003 there were no October records of this expanding western species. The only month that currently does not have a Sandhill Crane record is February.

The two Cackling Geese discovered on the BOS Ontario Plains Field Trip at Barker on the 27<sup>th</sup> and the four found by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at Somerset on the 28<sup>th</sup> are only our fourth and fifth records for this newly split



HY female Rufous Hummingbird photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Houghton, NY (Allegany County) on October 15, 2007. Inset shows additional detail.

species. There are six previous October records in the Noteworthy Records database, for what would have been this SPECIES, prior to the split. There were two Cattle Egret found on Waterport-Carlton Road in the Town of Carlton on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Previous October Cattle Egrets records are from the years 1964, 1969 and 2001.

Sometimes birds are rarities because of their location. The uncommon gulls and some ducks, such as scoters, are very rarely observed away from the Great Lakes, Niagara River, and Chautauqua Lake. The two Lesser Black-backed Gulls found on the 15<sup>th</sup> on Rushford Lake are our first Noteworthy Records database records of this species in Allegany County while four White-winged Scoters found by Jerry Lazarczyk on Cuba Lake are our first fall record of this species in Allegany County in 18 years.

I would like to acknowledge the following sources for providing information in the writing of The Month.

Beardslee, C. S. and H. D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region*. Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, vol. 22.

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Suggs, David et. al. 2002. *Seasonal Checklist of the Birds - The Niagara Frontier Region*. Buffalo Ornithological Society, Inc.

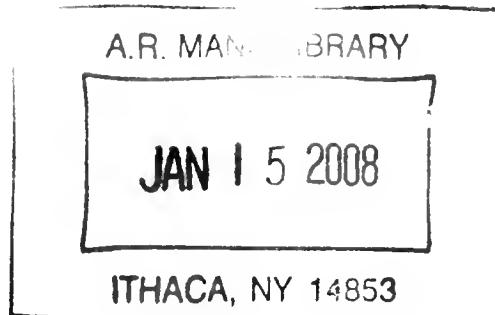
## Short-eared Owl Study

Chuck Rosenberg

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is completing a statewide study of the Short-eared Owl, a state-listed endangered species. The study will monitor Short-eared Owl movements, using night-vision scopes and radio-telemetry, to identify habitat characteristics important for over-wintering owls. Another objective of the study will be to compile recent observation records for entry into the New York Natural Heritage Program database. These records will be used toward establishing a long-term population monitoring program. The NYSDEC will ultimately apply the findings of the study toward developing grassland management practices to benefit over-wintering Short-eared Owl populations.

The NYSDEC is soliciting assistance from the Buffalo Ornithological Society in identifying recently active Short-eared Owl sites. Although we are most interested in 2007-2008 records, we would also welcome records dating back to 2000. Please report observations to:

Chuck Rosenburg NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation, 270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14203-2999, (716) 289-3122, cprosenb@gw.dec.state.ny.us



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Cackling Goose	27	2	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	28	4	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
Brant	10F	1	Olcott	Watson
"	18, 28	14, 50	Ft. Niagara SP	Lazarczyk et al; Yoerg et al
"	20	2	Athol Springs	D'Anna, Yoerg et al
"	27	36	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
Mute Swan	10	2	Olcott	Watson
"	13	2	Waterport	Watson, Pawlicki
"	24	6	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon
"	28	2	Cassadaga Lake	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
Gadwall	20	30	Athol Springs	D'Anna et al
American Black Duck	30	24	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	6; 30	150; 242	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Watson
Northern Pintail	28	69	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Redhead	13F	2	Buffalo	Wojewodzki, J Landau
"	28	7	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Ring-necked Duck	5	2	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	5; 6	1; 4	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson et al
Greater Scaup	26	445	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Gochfeld
Lesser Scaup	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	26	220	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Gochfeld
Surf Scoter	18	25	LaSalle Pk, Bflo.	Pawlicki, Watson
"	20; 27	2; 1	Athol Springs	D'Anna et al; Yoerg
"	27	20	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	28	37	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
White-winged Scoter	10	4	Olcott	Watson
"	16	4	Cuba Lake	Lazarczyk, Watson
"	27	50	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	28	375	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Black Scoter	27	1	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	28	2	Somerset	D'Anna et al
"	28	17	Four Mile creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-tailed Duck	28	425	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Bufflehead	28	200	Mayville	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
"	28	54	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	34	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Common Goldeneye	26	25	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki, Gochfeld
"	28	21	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Common Merganser	5F; 30	25; 52	Batavia WWTP	Morgante; Watson
Ruddy Duck	28	<u>800</u>	Mayville	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
"	30	428	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Red-throated Loon	10F	2	Olcott	Watson
Common Loon	10	8	Olcott	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	27	50	Barker	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	28	135	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Pied-billed Grebe	28	93	Mayville	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
Horned Grebe	27	38	Barker	Watson
Red-necked Grebe	21	1	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon, Yonker
"	28	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Eared Grebe	6; 30	4; 3	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al; Watson
D.-crested Cormorant	10	701	Buckhorn I. SP	Watson
Great Egret	5	1	Tifft NP	Watson
"	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
"	5; 9	8; 112	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante; Watson
"	19	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Cattle Egret	20F	1	Carlton	Pawlicki
Turkey Vulture	30	75	Lewiston	Yonker
Osprey	21	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki
Bald Eagle	6	5	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna (NYSOA)
"	27	1 imm	Yates	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	31	1	Grand I.	Yonker
Rough-legged Hawk	20F	1	Centerville	M&J Forness
"	27	2	Yates	Watson, D'Anna (BOS)
"	30	1	Ward	Brooks
Merlin	5	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	6	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson et al
"	20	1	Athol Springs	Watson, Yoerg, D'Anna
"	26	1	Goat I.	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Yates	Pawlicki, D'Anna (BOS)
Peregrine Falcon	5	1	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	8	1	Orchard Park	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	1	Olcott	Watson
"	24	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Common Moorhen	5; 6	1; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante; D'Anna (NYSOA)
American Coot	21	70	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki
"	28	850	Mayville	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
"	28	79	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
Sandhill Crane	13	5	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Watson
Greater Yellowlegs	5	3	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	9; 13	2; 16	Tonawanda WMA	Watson; Pawlicki, Watson
Sanderling	7	6	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
Least Sandpiper	6L	2	J White WMA	D'Anna (NYSOA)
White-r. Sandpiper	6	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Baird's Sandpiper	8L	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
Pectoral Sandpiper	8	1	Allegheny Reservoir	Yoerg, Henderson
Dunlin	5F	3	Iroquois NWR	Morgante
"	7	9	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
"	28	230	Golden Hill SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	28	200	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Stilt Sandpiper	6L	1	Oak Orchard WMA	D'Anna (NYSOA)
Wilson's Snipe	12	35	St. Davids (Ont)	Pawlicki
"	31	5	Attica	Dart, Beattie
Parasitic Jaeger	28	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Little Gull	27F	2	Athol Springs	Yoerg
"	28	2	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
Bonaparte's Gull	28	190	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
Herring Gull	15	1150	Rushford Lake	Pawlicki, Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lesser Black-b. Gull	15	2	Rushford Lake	Pawlicki, Watson
"	26	2	Goat I.	Pawlicki, Gochfeld
Common Tern	28	1	Chautauqua Lake	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
Forster's Tern	20L	1	Athol Springs	D'Anna, Watson, Yoerg
* Nor. Saw-whet Owl	11F, 12, 15, 16	1, 13, 4, 2	Wethersfield	Junkin
* <u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	15, 16	1	Houghton	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk et al
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2, 3	1, 1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	13L	1	Bethany	Beattie
Northern Shrike	28F	1	Ellery	Pawlicki, Watson, Lazarczyk
* White-eyed Vireo	4	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Blue-headed Vireo	16	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Red-eyed Vireo	2	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	8	1	Wilson	Pawlicki
Common Raven	8	1	Allegany SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	15	3	Houghton	Pawlicki, Beattie et al
"	15	2	Freedom	Watson, Pawlicki
"	15, 22	2, 1	Alfred	Brooks
"	21	2	Houghton	Yoerg, Henderson
"	24, 25	1, 1	Andover	Brooks
Horned Lark	31	37	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
N. Rough-w. Swallow	13	15	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Pawlicki
Carolina Wren	3	1	Beaver I. SP	Hess
"	7	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	19	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	31	1	Eden (f)	Andrle
House Wren	18L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Winter Wren	2, 10	11, 8	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	4	3	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	11	7	Tifft NP	Salembier
Marsh Wren	11	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	21L	1	Buckhorn I. SP	Pawlicki
Golden-cr. Kinglet	4	25	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
Bl.-gr. Gnatcatcher	<u>28; 30L</u>	1; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	3	8	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	10	9	Barker	Watson
"	28	11	Bethany	Beattie
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	10L	1	Tonawanda	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	10L	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
Northern Mockingbird	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	11, 18	2, 2	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	15	1	Houghton	Pawlicki, Watson
Brown Thrasher	30L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
American Pipit	5	26	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Tennessee Warbler	8L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Orange-cr. Warbler	8	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	23	1	Williamsville	Salembier, Pawlicki
"	25L	1	Alfred	Brooks
Nashville Warbler	6, 7	1, 2	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
"	11L	5	Tifft NP	Salembier
Magnolia Warbler	2	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	7	1	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al
Cape May Warbler	7L	2	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bl.-thr. Blue Warbler	4L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Yellow-r. Warbler	4	150	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	4	45	Ft. Niagara SP	Landon
"	7	100	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al
Bl.-thr. Green Warbler	7	2	Goat I.	D'Anna et al
"	10L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Pine Warbler	7	1	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al
"	11	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	21	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
Palm Warbler	1, 5	2, 2	Bethany	Beattie
Palm Warbler	7	2	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al
* <i>D. p. hypochrysea</i>	24	1	Amherst SP	Salembier, Pawlicki
Blackpoll Warbler	4	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
"	7	1	Goat I.	Watson, D'Anna et al
Eastern Towhee	12, 26-28L	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	13	2	Buffalo	Wojewodzki, J Landau
"	13	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Chipping Sparrow	10	33	Williamsville	Salembier
"	26	4	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Gochfeld
* <u>Nelson's Sh.-tail. Spar.</u>	12	1	Port Weller (Ont)	Pawlicki
Fox Sparrow	12F	1	Williamsville	Salembier
"	16, 24	1, 4	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	26	1	Beaver I. SP	Pawlicki, Gochfeld
"	26	2	Colden	J Landau
"	26	5	Tonawanda	Watson
Lincoln's Sparrow	10	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	11L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
White-cr. Sparrow	1	2	Tillman WMA	Salembier
"	1	30	Bethany	Beattie
Lapland Longspur	5	3	Batavia WWTP	Morgante
Snow Bunting	28F	2	Ft. Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	21	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	31	2	Bethany	Dart, Beattie
Rose-br. Grosbeak	10L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Indigo Bunting	11L	1	Tifft NP	Salembier
Red-w. Blackbird	10	800	Royalton	Watson
Eastern Meadowlark	21	6	Amherst	Pawlicki
Rusty Blackbird	5	50	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
"	10	20	Newstead	Watson
"	20	300	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki et al
"	26	6	Tonawanda	Watson
Common Grackle	29	127	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
Baltimore Oriole	26L	1	Williamsville	Salembier
* Common Redpoll	30F	1	Wilson (window-kill)	Potter
Pine Siskin	9F	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	19, 31	1, 8	Wilson (f)	Potter
"	21	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	25	Houghton	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23 - 24	1	Eden (f)	Andrle

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:** 273

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:** 006

**Total for the year 2007:** 279

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary. <sup>The Prothonotary</sup> 93 Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

# Report of the 72nd Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 14, 2007

Compiler: Mike Hamilton

Weather Synopsis: Terry Yonker

## Weather Synopsis

Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies prevailed over much of the count area during the day. Seasonal temperatures and light westerly winds were the rule. A high pressure area was centered over the North East

### Buffalo-Niagara International Airport

Sunrise: 7:27 AM EDT      Sunset: 6:35 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
Midnight	Mostly Cloudy	52	35	29.96	W7	
3:00 am	Cloudy	50	38	29.99	W8	
6:00 am	Cloudy	49	41	30.03	W7	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	50	42	30.09	W8	
Noon	Mostly Cloudy	55	43	30.12	NW10	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	56	43	30.11	NW10	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	55	44	30.14	NW8	
9:00 pm	Partly Cloudy	52	45	30.15	NW3	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

### G E E S E - H E R O N S

Snow Goose	12	(4,18)	Long-tailed Duck	F	18	(3,4)
* <b>Ross's Goose</b>	1	(12)	Bufflehead	F	4	(6,8,11)
Cackling Goose	1	(13)	Common Goldeneye	F	1	(8)
Canada Goose	24650		Hooded Merganser		14	
Brant	1	(6)	Common Merganser		208	
Mute Swan	33		Red-breasted Merganser		253	
Wood Duck	385		Ruddy Duck		228	
Gadwall	18		unspecified ducks		60	(3)
American Wigeon	101		unspecified waterfowl		7	(22)
American Black Duck	98		Ring-necked Pheasant		11	
Mallard	3951		Ruffed Grouse		13	
Blue-winged Teal	161		Wild Turkey		277	
Northern Shoveler	184	(13,21)	Red-throated Loon		2	(3,4)
Northern Pintail	6	(8,13,21)	Common Loon		159	
Green-winged Teal	170		Pied-billed Grebe		81	
Redhead	59	(7,17)	Horned Grebe	F	9	
Ring-necked Duck	129		Red-necked Grebe		1	(5)
Greater Scaup	927		Eared Grebe		2	(13)
Lesser Scaup	49		Double-crested Cormorant		1152	
unspecified scaup	26	(3,8)	Great Blue Heron		144	
Surf Scoter	49		Great Egret		9	(10,11)
White-winged Scoter	457		Blk-crowned Night-Heron		2	(9)

### V U L T U R E S - C R A N E S

Turkey Vulture	409		Cooper's Hawk		31	
Osprey	5	(3,7,13)	unspecified accipiters		1	(20)
Bald Eagle	18		Red-shouldered Hawk		9	
Northern Harrier	29		Red-tailed Hawk		306	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	31		unspecified buteos		1	(8)
American Kestrel	52		Common Moorhen		1	(5)
Merlin	3	(6,7,8)	American Coot	F	886	
Peregrine Falcon	2	(9)	Sandhill Crane		10	(5,6,8)

## PLOVERS - TERNS

Black-bellied Plover	2
Killdeer	493
Greater Yellowlegs	71
Lesser Yellowlegs	40
Sanderling	15 (6,7)
Least Sandpiper	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	13
Dunlin	11 (1,8,13)
Wilson's Snipe	11

American Woodcock	2 (20,28)
unspecified shorebirds	1 (10)
unspecified jaegers	2 (4)
Bonaparte's Gull	555
Ring-billed Gull	9581
Herring Gull	942
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4 (19)
Gr. Black-backed Gull	52

## PIGEONS - SWALLOWS

Rock Pigeon	2235
Mourning Dove	2995
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1 (23)
Eastern Screech-Owl	14
Great Horned Owl	15
Barred Owl	5
Northern Saw-whet Owl	11 (24)
Chimney Swift	2 (13)
<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b>	<b>1 (19)</b>
Belted Kingfisher	50
Red-headed Woodpecker	2 (5)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	204
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	26
Downy Woodpecker	406
Hairy Woodpecker	125

Northern Flicker	162
Pileated Woodpecker	28
unspecified woodpeckers	2 (6,22)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	1 (2)
Eastern Phoebe	43
Blue-headed Vireo	9
Red-eyed Vireo	L 10 (3,7,10)
Blue Jay	1860
American Crow	4623
Common Raven	31
Horned Lark	376
Tree Swallow	41
N. Rough-winged Swallow	2 (9)
Barn Swallow	7 (1,7,13)
unspecified swallows	200 (9)

## TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	1717
Tufted Titmouse	167
Red-breasted Nuthatch	126
White-breasted Nuthatch	384
Brown Creeper	49
Carolina Wren	16
House Wren	2 (2,7)
Winter Wren	35
Marsh Wren	2 (2,6)
Golden-crowned Kinglet	500
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	555
Eastern Bluebird	428

Gray-cheeked Thrush	2 (10,13)
Swainson's Thrush	2 (20)
Hermit Thrush	66
Wood Thrush	2 (12,20)
American Robin	4929
Gray Catbird	24
Northern Mockingbird	13
Brown Thrasher	1 (20)
European Starling	34912
American Pipit	492
Cedar Waxwing	585

## WARBLERS

Orange-crowned Warbler	1 (12)
Nashville Warbler	13 (5,22)
Magnolia Warbler	L 1 (6)
Blk-throated Blue Warbler	2 (6,12)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1085
Blk-thr'ted Green Warbler	1 (11)

Pine Warbler	9 (8,14,17)
Bay-breasted Warbler	1 (9)
Blackpoll Warbler	L 1 (9)
Black-and-white Warbler	1 (9)
Common Yellowthroat	2 (17,18)
unspecified warblers	2 (20)

## TOWHEES - SPARROWS

Eastern Towhee	33
American Tree Sparrow	7
Chipping Sparrow	500
Field Sparrow	126
Vesper Sparrow	2 (19,25)
Savannah Sparrow	30
Fox Sparrow	F 19

Northern Cardinal	416
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2 (7,12)
<b>Bobolink</b>	<b>20 (10)</b>
Red-winged Blackbird	16713
Eastern Meadowlark	19
Rusty Blackbird	708
Common Grackle	9318

Song Sparrow	800	Brown-headed Cowbird	3721
Lincoln's Sparrow	11	Purple Finch	175
Swamp Sparrow	101	House Finch	444
White-throated Sparrow	1983	Pine Siskin	F 9 (6,12)
White-crowned Sparrow	1290	American Goldfinch	1747
Dark-eyed Junco	2197	House Sparrow	2743
unspecified sparrows	14 (8,10,20)		

**Summary Information – Total Species Observed .....159**  
**Total Individual Birds Observed ... 150,480**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Michael Hamilton, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 72 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2007 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

**NOTES:** **First count record:** Ross's Goose, 1; Cackling Goose, 1; Rufous Hummingbird, 1.

**Second count record:** unspecified jaegers, 2. First count record was 2 in 2005

**Third count record:** Eared Grebe, 2 , other count records were 3 in 2003 and 2 in 1997; Bobolink, 20, other count records were 1 in 1968 and 1 in 1959

**First decade record:** Ross's Goose, 1; Cackling Goose,1; Rufous Hummingbird, 1; Bobolink, 20.

**Second decade record:** Eared Grebe, 2, first decade record was 3 in 2003; unspecified jaegers, 2, first decade record was 2 in 2005; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1, first decade record was 1 in 2000.

**Third decade record:** Brant,1, other decade records were 14 In 2005 and 7 in 2000; Red-throated Loon, 2, other decade records were 7 in 2006 and 1 in 2000; Sandhill Crane, 10, other decade records were 3 in 2004 and 1 in 2003; Northern Saw-whet Owl, 11, other decade records were 1 in 2004 and 6 in 2002; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2, other decade records were 4 in 2006 and 3 in 2000.

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Canada Goose, 24,650 (3.8x); Bald Eagle, 18 (9x); Cooper's Hawk, 31 (3.5x); unspecified jaegers, 2 (24x); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 4 (32x); Northern Saw-whet Owl, 11 (40x); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 204 (11.3x); Downy Woodpecker,406 (2.5x); Hairy Woodpecker, 125 (2.9x); Pileated Woodpecker, 28 (4x); Tufted Titmouse, 167 (7x); Eastern Bluebird, 428 (2.7x); Pine Warbler, 9(9); Northern Cardinal, 416 (2.3x); Bobolink, 20 (65x). *Total of 14*

**Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average):** None

**Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Canada Goose, 24,650 (1.4x); Blue-winged Teal, 161 (2.5x); Long-tailed Duck, 18 (6x); Green Heron, 9 (1.8x); Bald Eagle, 18 (2x); Cooper's Hawk, 31 (1.5x); Red-shouldered Hawk, 9 (1.5x); Sandhill Crane, 10 (10x); unspecified jaegers, 2 (5x); Lesser Black-backed Gull, 4 (4x); Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 (5x); Northern Saw-whet Owl, 11, (5.5x); Red-bellied Woodpecker, 204 (2.3x); Downy Woodpecker, 406 (1.5x); Hairy Woodpecker, 125 (1.8x); Pileated Woodpecker, 28 (1.8x); Red-eyed Vireo, 10 (2.4x); Horned Lark, 376 (4.4x); Tufted Titmouse, 167 (1.6x); White-breasted Nuthatch, 384 (1.5x); Eastern Bluebird, 428 (1.7x); American Robin, 4,929 (1.7x); Pine Warbler, 9 (4.5x); Lincoln's Sparrow, 11 (1.6x); White-crowned Sparrow, 1,290 (2.5x); Dark-eyed Junco, 2,197 (2.3x) Northern Cardinal, 416 (1.2x); Bobolink, 20 (10x); Purple Finch, 175 (2.2x); House Sparrow, 2,743 (1.5x). *Total of 29*

**Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** Black-crowned Night-Heron, 2 (40%); House Wren, 2 (29%); Magnolia Warbler, 1 (25%); Black-throated Green Warbler, 1 (17%). *Total of 4*

**Noteable (more than double) average increases, last decade vs entire count period (% increase):** Canada Goose (272%), Mute Swan (449%), Tundra Swan (201%), Mallard (211%), Northern Shoveler (446%), Green-winged Teal (274%), Ring-necked Duck (281%), Surf Scoter (264%), White-winged Scoter (250%), Common Merganser (359%), Red-breasted Merganser (260%), Ruddy Duck (421%), Common Loon (390%), Double-crested Cormorant (580%), Great Egret (500%), Turkey Vulture (354%), Bald Eagle (413%), Sharp-shinned Hawk (219%), Cooper's Hawk (227%), Merlin (462%), Peregrine Falcon (510%), Sandhill Crane (630%), Hudsonian Godwit (225%), Stilt Sandpiper (288%), Buff-breasted Sandpiper (720%), Long-billed Dowitcher (257%), Lesser Black-backed Gull (720%), Caspian Tern (617%), Mourning Dove, (287%), Eastern Screech-Owl (213%), Barred Owl (267%), Northern Saw-whet Owl (648%), Red-bellied Woodpecker (510%), Pileated Woodpecker (219%), Blue-headed Vireo (239%), Common Raven (599%), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (310%), Tufted Titmouse (423%), Red-breasted Nuthatch (204%), Carolina Wren (354%), Northern Mockingbird (270%), Pine Warbler (404%), Bobolink (655%), Common Grackle (246%). *Total of 44*

**Noteable (50% or less) average decreases, last decade vs entire count period (% decrease):** American Black Duck (21%), Canvasback (5%), Greater Scaup (33%), Lesser Scaup (30%), Black Scoter (7%), Long-tailed Duck (28%), Common Goldeneye (21%), Ring-necked Pheasant (18%), Rough-legged Hawk (20%), Virginia Rail (32%), Common Moorhen (18%), Sanderling (48%), White-rumped Sandpiper (11%), Dunlin (23%), Little Gull (47%), Bonaparte's Gull (32%), Common Tern (3%), Red-headed Woodpecker (23%), Tennessee Warbler (24%), Chestnut-sided Warbler (29%), Magnolia Warbler (34%), Cape May Warbler (34%), Bay-breasted Warbler (30%), Ovenbird (21%), Scarlet Tanager (32%), Vesper Sparrow (7%), Snow Bunting (33%), Eastern Meadowlark (24%), Pine Siskin (24%), Evening Grosbeak (4%). *Total of 30*

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: **Lynne Landon**, Terry Yonker
2. Thorold, ON: John Stevens, **Katherine Stoltz**, Fred Zito
3. Wilson, NY: Bill Broderick, Ken Cohen, **Willie D'Anna**, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman
4. Middleport, NY: Julie Eberhart, Doug Heckel, Marsha Heckel, Barbara Henderson, Brendan Klick, **Bill Watson**, Peter Yoerg
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Donald Brasure, Barbara Henderson, Morgan Jones, Suasan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Peter Yoerg
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas, Chauncey Wood, Sarah Wood
7. Lowbanks, ON: **Mike Hamilton**, Marg Partridge, Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells, Margaret Wooster
8. Fort Erie, ON: Doug Happ, **Mike Zebehazy**
9. Grand Island, NY: Patricia Bogan, Lewis Crowell, David Friedrich, Mike Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Chris Hollister, Bernie Kester, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, **Gerry Rising**, Maria Zatkowski
10. Akron, NY: Ed Crohn, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **Don Roberson**, Mary Ann Stegmeier, John Welte, Paul Ziebarth, Virginia Ziebarth
11. Buffalo, NY: Alice McKale, Marie Johnson, Jane Heyer, **Chuck Rosenburg**
12. Lancaster, NY: **Greg Coniglio**, Mike Morgante, Christine Sousa, Chris Betrus, Nancy Miller, Mahlon Miller, Gail Seamans, Wayne Gall, Mark Nichter, Paul Fuhrmann
13. Batavia, NY: **Douglas Beattie**, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jane Mason, Mark Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Paula Stone, Dana Stringham, Diane Stringham, Don Thurau, Virginia Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe
14. Hamburg, NY: Bob Andrle, Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Erma Kern, Patty Madigan, Sue Saunders, Carolyn Willington
15. Java, NY: **Bill Bogacki**, Ed Ratajczak
16. Angola, NY: Tom Connare, Audrey Horbett, **Frances Rew**, George Robbins
17. Cattaraugus, NY: **Jim Pawlicki**, David Gordon
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Desha, Jim Landau, Karen Landau
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Andy Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Ron Andrews, Pauline Barber, **Doris Burton**, Faye Clancy, James Fegley, John Hasper, Dora Lilly, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Louise Mills, Mary Rauhe, Michael Raybuck, Theresa Rork, Linda Roth, Elaine Smith, Ann Voss, Denton Willett, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Richard Wilson
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Dick Clarke, Sylvia Clark, **Paul Farver**, Joanne Goetz, Tom Goetz, Joe Gula, Carol Hardenberg, Terry Mahoney, Jane McMaster, Terry Mosher, Lucille Neveu, Bob Peterson, Beverly Roska, John Roska, Audrey Schafer, Mary Sherman, Jeanine Smith, Ted Taft, Jordan Whitner
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jesse L. Nelson, Joanne E. Nelson, Linda O'Brien, William O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Paul Baglia, Ann Beebe, Sue Lawton, Linda O'Brien, Sally Martinez, **Bob Sundell**
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: Jean Pigman, Mary Shaul, Thomas Simmons, **Bob Sundell**
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Tom Le Blanc
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Joyce Ermer, Mike Ermer, Jeff Reed, James VanScoy, Regina VanScoy
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Doris Burton**, Bob Smalley
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russel Allen, Ann Brocci, **Doris Burton**, Helen Link, Marie Paxhia, William Sanford
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Russell Allen, Charlotte Anderson, Dan Babcock, Ellen Baker, Carol Behn, Don Brink, Lorna Brink, Betsy Brooks, Doris Burton, Mary Lou Cartledge, **Diane Converso**, Jim Copenheaver, Paul Culley, Elsie Cushing, Karol Doty, Marge Dugan, Peter Finlay, Terry Finlay, John Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Pat Hulse, Betty Kellogg, Wayne Kellogg, Sue Lange, Woodie Lange, Barry Lash, Martha Lash, Marian McClure, Kathy McDonald, Walter Mason, Mary Ormsby, Sean Phelan, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Vivian Pitzrick, Evelyn Ramsey, Nicole Ramsey, Dan Rase, Ona Reynolds, Ernest Rositzke, Nancy Rouse, Mary Shields, Peter Shields, Jim Smith, Maureen Soule, Terah Soule, Wilma Taggart, Tim Timbrook, Linda Travers, Mary Trouslot, Cindy Vance, Gerry Vance, Barbara Ware, Katie Weiman, Mary Lu Wells, **Suzanne Wood**

**Total Number of Observers: 238**

**Buffalo Ornithological Society Shorebird Count - August 19, 2007**  
**Terry Yonker**

**Weather Synopsis**

Weather during the Shorebird Count was unremarkable. Skies were generally clear to sunny with temperatures cool but pleasant and winds light and from the south.

**Greater Buffalo International Airport**

Sunrise: 6:26 AM EDT      Sunset: 8:11 PM EDT

TIME	WEATHER	TEMP	DEW PT	PRESSURE	DIR/WIND	REMARKS
12:00 am	Clear	62	49	30.19	S5	
3:00 am	Clear	59	50	30.17	S6	
6:00 am	Clear	56	49	30.16	S6	
9:00 am	Partly Sunny	61	49	30.17	S3	
12:00 pm	Partly Sunny	68	52	30.16	Calm	

**Seven Year Summary of BOS Shorebird Counts**

<u>Species</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Black-bellied Plover	30	58	12	10	1	6	4
American Golden-Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	51	80	116	118	79	127	68
Killdeer	264	132	265	139	156	44	367
Greater Yellowlegs	28	23	44	2	7	3	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	336	204	98	12	95	10	122
Solitary Sandpiper	6	3	2	1	2	3	5
Willet	5	2	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	170	115	140	67	103	116	104
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	1	2	2	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	3	20	14	3	9	3	0
Red Knot	3	1	0	1	3	1	0
Sanderling	15	73	25	7	29	86	10
Semipalmated Sandpiper	215	322	527	229	490	338	89
Western Sandpiper	0	0	2	4	1	0	0
Least Sandpiper	294	339	257	173	420	308	394
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	6	10	0	0	1	0
Baird's Sandpiper	3	11	0	11	13	4	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	47	63	15	4	49	15	1
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	0	4	0	2	0	0	6
Stilt Sandpiper	0	2	1	0	4	0	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	8	22	29	0	38	12	3
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	18	9	9	5	0	12	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1500</b>	<b>1491</b>	<b>1569</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>1537</b>	<b>1090</b>	<b>1197</b>

## 2007 BOS Shorebird Count Results

<u>Species</u>	<u>Reach 1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Total</u>
Black-bellied Plover	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	4
American Golden Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Semipalmated Plover	4	6	0	0	22	11	19	2	0	4	68
Killdeer	39	94	19	26	43	84	12	37	1	12	367
Greater Yellowlegs	0	0	0	1	0	9	1	0	0	0	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	6	0	2	6	86	8	5	0	5	122
Solitary Sandpiper	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Sandpiper	15	15	2	3	13	20	6	22	1	7	104
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whimbrel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marbled Godwit	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	7	10
Semipalmated Sandpiper	5	12	0	1	36	5	14	9	1	6	89
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Least Sandpiper	32	40	0	0	57	169	20	56	1	19	394
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baird's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Stilt Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Short-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1197</b>

Interesting note: "At Rock Point from 0815 to 0830 there were 2 Parasitic Jaegers flying back and forth near the tip! Occasionally one would swoop low over a shorebird. The shorebirds settled down and were countable after the jaegers left."

Participants: Reach 1 – Lynne Landon, Terry Yonker; Reach 2 – Ann Coburn, Michael Hamilton, Doug Happ; Reach 3 – Tom O'Donnell; Reach 4 – Jim Rozanski, Liz Wells; Reach 5 – Brian Ahara, Manley Bearda, Kayo Roy; Reach 6 – Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon; Reach 7 – Gail Seamans; Reach 8 – David Gordon, Jim Pawlicki, Bill Watson; Reach 9 & 10 – John Black, Brad Clements, Dan Salisbury, Roberta Salisbury.

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## **BOS website**



## **Buffalo-Niagara Region Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Jan. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Dr. Robert DeLeon will interpret results of the 2007 Annual BOS May Count and compare with the 70+ years of data in the Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count database.

**Jan. 13: Sun. January Waterfowl Count and mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count period is from Jan. 12-20. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan. 13, weather permitting. Participation encouraged! Contact Jim Landau at 941-3869 or kjlandau@localnet.com

**Jan. 23: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Tom Somerville (NYS DEC fish and Wildlife Technician) and Connie Adams (NYS DEC Wildlife Biologist) will present a talk titled, "What are the Buffalo Peregrines Eating?" They will have actual diet specimens, as well as, mystery items that they will be asking BOS members to identify. (They have very interesting wing and tail remnants for some of the BOS bird experts to help them identify.)

**Feb. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mike Hamilton will discuss the Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual April and October Counts and compare with earlier count data. A BOS business meeting follows.

**Feb. 27: BOS Meeting at 7:30 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** John Ruska, President of the New York State Bluebird Society will present a talk titled, "The Nesting and Status of the Eastern Bluebird."

# The PROTHONOTARY



Published Monthly by the

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 73, No. 12 December, 2007

### THE MONTH: November

*Gerry Rising*

Steve McLaughlin, Buffalo Weather Office senior forecaster, called this month "a return to reality" and he went on to say, "After six months of superb summery weather, Mother Nature brought wind, clouds and rain -- typical late November weather."

Too late for farmers, wet weather did indeed arrive with 5.3 inches of precipitation, an inch and a half above normal and the most for any month this year. A big storm on 21-22 even caused some minor street flooding. In fact, there were only three days this month without at least a trace of precipitation. Little of this was snow, however, a total of 3.4 inches falling, most of it on the 6th. Even that was local and many areas received less than two inches total. The temperature for the month averaged 39°, a little more than a degree below normal.

November is a month of departures and arrivals, of the very last of the summer birds moving out and the first northerners visiting woodlots and showing up at feeders. It is also a month of waterfowl movements along the Great Lakes. More problematic, it is a hunting month when birders tend to steer clear of some areas. Despite this, our usual good field birders (whom I salute) got out and have provided us with a quite reasonable survey of the region.

**Water birds:** A rare Ross's Goose (that species a favorite of mine because of those three s's in a row) showed up at Sinking Ponds in East Aurora, a great find at that area censused almost daily by the redoubtable Linda Holmes. Other waterfowl numbers seem normal, highlights 120 Tundra Swans at Beaver Island on the 29th, a scaup build-up late in the month on the Niagara River above Goat Island and the usual large numbers of Ruddy Ducks (max 224) appearing mid-month at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant.

#### 101 The Month

*Gerry Rising*

#### 102 Noteworthy Records

*Bruce Chilton*

#### 105 Niagara River Field Trip

*Nick Sly*

#### 106 BOS Calendar

Two Northern Gannets were reported on Lake Ontario. With the DEC reporting many hundreds of loons found dead from botulism on Lake

Erie beaches, it is a wonder that any are left. Fortunately, the situation appears not to be as severe on Lake Ontario -- at least not yet.

**Gulls:** The 3500 boney's on the 6th at Fort Erie must have been like a snowstorm. No California Gull this year but a few of the usual uncommon species did appear: Black-headed and Sabine's Gulls and a Black-legged Kittiwake. Little and Lesser Black-backed Gulls have become so regular that they no longer attract the attention they did a few years ago.

**Stragglers:** According to our records, not many summer birds remained into the month. A rough-winged swallow, a catbird, a few yellow-rumps and a Pine Warbler. Still more unusual: a Dickcissel on the 3rd at Lewiston.

**Can winter be far behind?** Not an easy question to answer without sneaking a peak at later records, but there were some good signs that this might be a good year for winter finches. Those signs included: two Rough-legged Hawks, two Purple Sandpipers at Niagara Falls, just one Snowy Owl, several Northern Shrikes, good flights of Snow Buntings, mostly along Lake Ontario, two groups of Pine Grosbeaks, a Red and a White-winged Crossbill, many Common Redpolls, a scattering of Pine Siskins and (welcome back!) a few Evening Grosbeaks. Is that list prescient? Your guess is as good as mine.



*Snowy Owl  
photographed by Dave  
Armstrong at the  
Chautauqua Co.  
airport in Jamestown,  
NY on Nov. 8, 2007.*

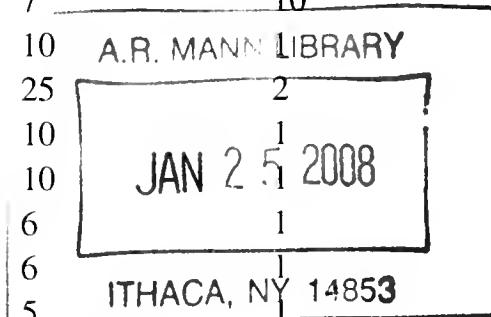
## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable, detailed written verification according to the *Date Guide to Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario* (Eighth Edition - Revised 2007) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

- \* - Indicates first record for the year.
- F - Indicates first record for the migration.
- L - Indicates last record for the migration.
- (f) Indicates record from feeding station. (n) Indicates nest(s). (yg) Indicates young.
- PDBA - Indicates Previously Documented Breeding Area.

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	10; 11	2 blue	Iroquois NWR	Watson; D' Anna
* <u>Ross's Goose</u>	10,11,12	1 juv	Sinking Ponds NS	Zebehazy
"	10	1 juv	Sinking Ponds NS	Morgante
"	10	1 juv	Marilla	Lazarczyk
"	11	1 juv	Sinking Ponds NS	Watson
Brant	4 - 10	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg; Sharon; D' Anna
Mute Swan	6; 10	6; 5	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Sharon; D' Anna, Pawlicki
"	24	5	Wilson Harbor	Lazarczyk
"	25	3	Queenston (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Tundra Swan	10	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson, Schlacter
"	25	2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	120	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
Wood Duck	29	1	Grand I.	Lazarczyk
"	30	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Morgante
Gadwall	5	57	Iroquois NWR	Watson
"	21	4	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
American Wigeon	7	40	Alexander	Beattie
"	10	153	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
American Black Duck	10	76	Oak Orchard WMA	Watson
"	21	40	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Blue-winged Teal	7L	3	Alexander	Beattie
Northern Shoveler	7	18	Alexander	Beattie
"	10; 21	130; 6	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Zebehazy
"	24	10	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Northern Pintail	4	1	Sinking Ponds NS	Morgante
"	13	5	Tifft NP	Andrle
"	21	20	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Green-winged Teal	3; 18	34; 75	Tifft NP	Watson; Sharon
Canvasback	4	10	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D' Anna
Redhead	4	1	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D' Anna
"	17	75	Golden Hill SP	D' Anna, Potter
Greater Scaup	2	11	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	1000	Niagara Falls	Roberson
Lesser Scaup	21	3	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Surf Scoter	5	2	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	7, 12	1, 1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
"	9	5	LaSalle Park	Hess
"	10	30	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
White-winged Scoter	7, 12	2, 1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	30	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
"	30	1	Niagara River	Roberson
Black Scoter	7, 12	1, 1	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1	Jaeger Rocks (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
Long-tailed Duck	21	2	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Bufflehead	6	200	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson
"	21	11	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Common Goldeneye	30	342	Niagara River	Roberson
Hooded Merganser	10	138	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	25	63	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Common Merganser	1	17	Andover	Brooks
"	21	30	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
Ruddy Duck	10;21	224;50	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Zebehazy
"	10	2	Oakfield	Watson
"	12	5	Bird I. Pier	Yoerg, Henderson
"	29	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
Red-throated Loon	4	10	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4, 18	11, 2	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	12	1	Barker	Watson, Schlacter
Common Loon	5	76	Golden Hill SP	Watson
Horned Grebe	3	171	Hamburg Town Park	Morgante
"	5	41	Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	6	1	Alfred	Brooks
Red-necked Grebe	3; 5	7; 4	Golden Hill SP	Watson; D'Anna
"	17	1	Pt. Breeze	D'Anna
"	24; 25	1; 2	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki (BOS); D'Anna
Eared Grebe	<u>10; 12,21</u>	4;2,1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Zebehazy
* Northern Gannet	18F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	23	1	Wilson Harbor	Suggs
D.-crested Cormorant	9, 20	290, 20	La Salle Park	Hess
Turkey Vulture	1	4	Lancaster	Morgante
Osprey	3; 8	1; 1	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki, Salembier; Sharon
Bald Eagle	12	1 imm	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
"	24	1 imm	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Red-shouldered Hawk	17, 19	1	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Rough-legged Hawk	3	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Gordon
"	16	2	Pembroke	Beattie
Merlin	13	1	UB south campus	Yoerg
"	24	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna et al
Peregrine Falcon	4	1 ad	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	18	1	Grand I.	J Landau
American Coot	5	550	Tonawanda WMA	Watson
Killdeer	7	10	Bethany	Beattie
"	10		Lewiston	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Purple Sandpiper	25	2	Niagara Falls (Ont)	D'Anna et al
Dunlin	10	1	Porter	Pawlicki, D'Anna
American Woodcock	10		Cambria	Pawlicki
Red Phalarope	6	1	Bird I. Pier	Watson
Phalarope species	6		Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
Little Gull	5		Golden Hill SP	Watson
"	6; 7, 29	1; 1, 1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Watson, Pawlicki; Yoerg
* Black-headed Gull	24, 29	1 ad	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Yoerg
Bonaparte's Gull	6	3500	Buffalo, Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson et al
Iceland Gull	18F; 24	2; 3 ad	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	D'Anna, Hamilton (BOS); Pawlicki (BOS)
Lesser Black-b. Gull	22	1	Beaver I. SP	Sharon
"	25	2	Adam Beck Hydro (Ont)	Yoerg, Henderson
* Sabine's Gull	6	2	Bird I. Pier	Pawlicki, Watson, Gordon



<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black-leg. Kittiwake	6	1 juv	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson, D'Anna
Common Tern	6	1	Fort Erie (Ont)	Pawlicki, Watson
* Snowy Owl	8	1	Ellicott	Berry, Rambacher et al
Short-eared Owl	9	2	Porter	Sharon
Northern Shrike	2; 10;23	1; 1;1	Porter	Sharon; D'Anna; Pawlicki
"	4	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	10	1	Batavia WWTP	Schlacter, Watson
"	17	2	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	1	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
Common Raven	1	1	Ward	Brooks
"	21	2	Alfred	Brooks
Horned Lark	7	32	Bethany	Beattie
N. Rough-w. Swallow	8L	6	Goat I.	Pawlicki
Carolina Wren	3	1	Tifft NP	Watson, Gordon
"	4	1	Grand I. (f)	Lazarczyk
"	6; 28	1; 1	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	10	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Winter Wren	10	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	10	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna
"	17	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Eastern Bluebird	1	2	Alfred	Brooks
"	7, 9	5, 5	Bethany	Beattie
"	10	13	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Hermit Thrush	23	1	Porter	Sharon
Gray Catbird	3	1	Tifft NP	Gordon, Watson
Northern Mockingbird	3	1	Tifft NP	Watson
Yellow-rump. Warbler	10	2	Porter	D'Anna et al
"	10	1	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
Pine Warbler	25	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
Fox Sparrow	3	3	Joseph Davis SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	10	3	Porter	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
"	14	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Swamp Sparrow	10	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
White-cr. Sparrow	17	7	Carlton	D'Anna, Potter
Snow Bunting	4	255	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	4	55	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg, Henderson
"	10	100	Fort Erie (Ont)	Yoerg
"	12	75	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
"	17	70	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	17	30	Yates	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Dickcissel</u>	3	1	Lewiston	Pawlicki, Salembier
Red-w. Blackbird	3	14	Tifft NP	Watson
"	16	300	Pembroke	Beattie
Rusty Blackbird	3	1	Joseph Davis SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	3	10	Sinking Ponds NS	Morgante
"	10	5	Iroquois NWR	Watson, Schlacter
"	10	15	Four Mile Creek SP	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Potter
"	16	30	Pembroke	Beattie
* Pine Grosbeak	22F	7	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	24	6	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna, Potter
Purple Finch	3	1	Joseph Davis SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Red Crossbill	18	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter, Hamilton (BOS)
* White-w. Crossbill	23F, 27	1	Wilson (f)	Potter
Common Redpoll	1	1	Wilson	Potter

<u>Species</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	18;24	120;65	Four Mile Creek SP	Yoerg; D'Anna et al
"	18	25	Wilson	Yoerg, Henderson
"	21	28	Batavia WWTP	Zebehazy
"	24	50	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
Pine Siskin	5, 16, 26	9, 35, 49	Colden	J Landau
"	9; 11; 19	4; 2; 2	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	17	8	Newfane	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	2	Wilson (f)	Potter, D'Anna
"	18	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Yoerg, Henderson
American Goldfinch	4	50	Eden (f)	Andrle
* Evening Grosbeak	2F	11	Eden (f)	Andrle
"	3	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids previously recorded this year:**

**279**

**Species, subspecies, and hybrids recorded for this month:**

**008**

**Total for the year 2007:**

**287**

**Statisticians' Note I:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please mail reports for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Bruce Chilton 88 Pryor Avenue, Tonawanda, NY 14150; Email: BChi314159@aol.com.

**Statisticians' Note II:** We are asking members of the BOS and any other birders who send in reports to the BOS to advise us as soon as they can of any possible errors in regard to records published in the Prothonotary, particularly in the Noteworthy Records so that we can make any necessary changes as soon as appropriate.

## BOS Niagara River Trip – Nov. 24th

Nick Sly



Jim Pawlicki led the Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> BOS river trip with myself, Tom Connare, David Gordon, and Dick Farver. We started in Fort Erie at 8am, with the group finding a Black-headed Gull (photo above) in a roosting flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, just south of the Railroad Bridge. Jim picked out the bird by seeing a flash of red bill. The bird was very difficult to pick out among the Bonaparte's Gulls. It was only marginally bigger than the Bonaparte's, and was distinguished by the white nape and head and limited black head markings. The Bonaparte's showed some degree of gray wash to the nape. All observers (we were joined by Jean and Sharon Skelly from Rochester) sighted some or all of the field marks - black on the undersides of the primaries, white head, general paler grey mantle color, and red dark-tipped bill. Finally, the flock of Bonaparte's did a major reshuffling, after which we could not relocate the bird. Skipping ahead about half an hour, this time about a kilometer north of the Railroad Bridge, we found a group of about a hundred Bonapartes in a feeding frenzy right next to shore. We all piled out (with Marcie Jacklin and Tim Sievert from Fort Erie and another group of Ohio birders joining us) and we quickly picked up the Black-headed Gull again.

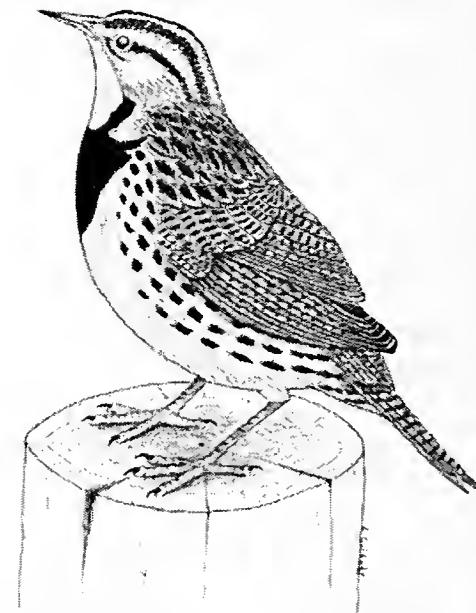
Okay, now for the trip report, not including the Black-headed Gull. We started off in Fort Erie just south of the Peace Bridge. Lake effect squalls reduced visibility. Large numbers of Bufflehead were observed. A Bald Eagle was perched in the park, then flew over the river where we watched it unsuccessfully pursue a Bufflehead. At this point we began working our way upriver, stopping at every opening to scope for ducks and gulls. We found the aforementioned Black-headed Gull. After that, as we were beginning to pull away, a flock of American Goldfinches flew in along the shrubs bordering the river. We stopped to scan, hoping for redpolls, but saw none. But at that moment Marice Jacklin and Tim Sievert from Fort Erie found a Yellow Warbler near the flock. Unfortunately the rest of our group missed this very late Yellow Warbler. Also here were a Red-necked Grebe, all three merganser species, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and a Common Loon. We continued further upriver and stopped at the Legends of Niagara Golf course just south of Chippewa and were rewarded with a juvenile Northern Harrier, a small group of Hooded Mergansers, and ten Common Redpolls. Above the falls at the downstream end of the control gates, we saw an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull and a group of about ten Northern Shovelers feeding mid-river around the large flat rock. We took the long walk to look below the falls in the gorge, but only about a dozen gulls in total were found feeding in the mist. Our next stop was at the Adam Beck Hydro where we found two separate adult Kumlien's Iceland Gulls and one second-year Lesser Black-backed Gull. Finally, at the fly-past at Niagara-on-the-Lake, we saw relatively few Bonaparte's Gulls given the date, with no other non-Bonaparte's small gulls sighted. One Belted Kingfisher rattled by and three Double-crested Cormorants were sitting on a buoy mid-river.

Buffalo Ornithological Society  
Buffalo Museum of Science  
1020 Humboldt Parkway  
Buffalo, NY 14211-1293

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## January – February Calendar

**BOS website**  
<http://www.bosbirding.org/>



**Buffalo-Niagara Region**  
**Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Jan. 23: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Tom Somerville (NYS DEC fish and Wildlife Technician) and Connie Adams (NYS DEC Wildlife Biologist) will present a talk titled, "What are the Buffalo Peregrines Eating?" They will have actual die specimens, as well as, mystery items that they will be asking BOS members to identify. (They have very interesting wing and tail remnants for some of the BOS bird experts to help them identify.

**Feb. 9: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Mike Hamilton will discuss the Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual April and October Counts and compare with earlier count data. A BOS business meeting follows.

**Feb. 27: BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** John Ruska, President of the New York State Bluebird Society will present a talk titled, "The Nesting and Status of the Eastern Bluebird."

# Buffalo Ornithological Society Membership Roster – January, 2008

Last Name	First Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Phone
Able	Elise	11156 Old Glenwood Rd.	East Concord	NY	14055-9716	716-592-1861
Anderson	Donald W.	44 Poultney Av.	Buffalo	NY	14215-2230	716-832-3381
Andrle	Dr. Robert	3188 Mill Rd.	Eden	NY	14057-9629	716-992-3520
Baird	Tim	242 East State St.	Salamanca	NY	14779-1224	716-945-2539
Banks	Michelle	413 Rambling Rd.	East Amherst	NY	14051-1371	716-639-8655
Barber	Maxine	45 Beverly Dr.	Depew	NY	14043-1503	716-683-3061
Barone	David	357 Hoyt St.	Buffalo	NY	14213-1246	716-886-4867
BEARSS	TOM & SANDRA	12-6105 RIVER RD.	LADNER	BC	V4K 5G5	604-940-9296
Beattie	J. Douglas	9605 Francis Rd.	Batavia	NY	14020-9787	585-343-4767
Bee	Marion L.	2681 Aqueduct Rd.	Niskayuna	NY	12309-2100	
Benham	Paul M.	112 Linden Av.	Kenmore	NY	14217-1459	716-877-5203
Berry	James	301 Park St.	Jamestown	NY	14701-8033	716-665-2473 X225
Berst	Edward R.	95 Nagel Dr.	Cheektowaga	NY	14225-4313	716-684-6512
Betrus	Christopher	1487 Davis Rd.	West Falls	NY	14170-9703	716-652-3761
Betsy Potter	William D'Anna &	4777 W. Lake Rd.	Burt	NY	14028-9759	716-751-3637
BLACK	JOHN	17 VALERIE DR.	ST. CATHARINES	ONT	L2T 3G3	905-684-0143
Bogacki	William J.	72 S. Cayuga Rd.	Williamsville	NY	14221-6706	716-674-5781
Bogan	Patricia M.	456 Wendel Av.	Buffalo	NY	14223-2212	716-837-6449
Bompczyk	Nancy M.	910 Delaware Rd.	Tonawanda	NY	14223-1006	
Bowen	Elma	6709 Woodside Pl.	Niagara Falls	NY	14304-1378	716-297-5520
Brandes	Kenneth	5233 McKinley Pkwy.	Hamburg	NY	14075-3925	
Brasure	Donald & Carol	64 Woodgate Rd.	Tonawanda	NY	14150-8132	716-834-6171
Brockner	Winston W.	5965 South Herzman Dr.	Evergreen	CO	80439-5448	303-674-4851
Broderick	William D.	830 River Rd.	Youngstown	NY	14174-1304	716-745-3969
Buccieri	Michael	P. O. Box 323	East Aurora	NY	14052-0323	716-652-5800
Budniewski	Ray & Chris	2374 Whitaker Rd.	Forestville	NY	14062-9665	716-965-2545
Bujnicki	Robert & Marilyn	1217 Delaware Ave. #903	Buffalo	NY	14209-1433	716-646-3497
Burch	William & Olive	22 Brandywine Dr.	Grand Island	NY	14072-1443	716-773-3690
Burton	Doris	5 John St.	Belmont	NY	14813-1116	585-268-5147
Byron	Richard & Barbara	64 Orchard Terrace	Orchard Park	NY	14127-2742	716-662-4783
Campbell	Drew	P.O. Box 1885	Williamsville	NY	14231-1885	716-668-0759
Castren	Sally	4256 Roxbury Dr.	Williamsville	NY	14221-7633	716-633-7697
CHAPPLE	JERRY & NINA	27 SYDENHAM ST.	DUNDAS	ONT	L9H 2T6	905-628-6894
Chilton	Bruce L.	88 Pryor Av.	Tonawanda	NY	14150-8319	716-833-9242
Chrisman	Diane	78 Rainbow Terr.	Orchard Park	NY	14127-2517	716-662-1716
Christensen	Richard	9 Brookside Dr.	Williamsville	NY	14221-6915	716-632-7762
Clark	Arthur R.	30 Saybrook Pl.	Buffalo	NY	14209-1107	716-881-2560
Clark	William E.	359A S. Cayuga Rd.	Williamsville	NY	14221-6743	
Clemesha	Mary	301 South Meadow Dr.	North Tonawanda	NY	14120-4887	716-692-4571
Clukey	Peggy Daniels	24 Hetzel Rd.	Williamsville	NY	14221-5304	716-631-9855
Cohen	Kenneth A.	3 Mockingbird Court	West Amherst	NY	14228-1025	716-689-9487
Collins	Dick	P.O. Box 374	Elma	NY	14059-9109	716-651-9213
Coniglio	Greg & Melissa	11825 Genesee St.	Alden	NY	14004-9762	716-937-0078
Connare	Thomas P.	30 Ardmore Pl.	Buffalo	NY	14213-1446	716-884-3562
Cooper	Dr. David	805 Carriage Ln.	Lewiston	NY	14092-2072	716-284-4118
Cooper	Dr. David	28621 San Lucas Ln. #101	Bonita Springs	FL	34135-8316	239-949-0091
Corrigan	Teresa & Peter	207 Woodward Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14214-2313	716-835-1905
Crohn	Dr. Edward	68 Maple Ct., #3	Amherst	NY	14226-3637	716-839-2259
D'Amato	Joseph	73 Flower St., #3	Buffalo	NY	14214-1136	716-838-8368
Darker	Joel	2625 E. Shelby Rd.	Oakfield	NY	14125-9759	585-948-8285
Dart	Elaine	4112 Gilhooly Rd.	Alexander	NY	14005-9762	585-343-7395
DeFrancisco	Leonard	405 W. Everett St	Falconer	NY	14733-1647	716-665-4999
DeLeon	Robert L. & Donna V.	381 Cadman Dr.	Williamsville	NY	14221-6945	716-626-0325
DeSha	Michael J.	26 Chestnut St.	Franklinville	NY	14737-1132	716-676-3559
DiDomenico	Joseph & Diane	601 Winspear Rd.	Elma	NY	14059-9112	716-683-7343
Diefendorf	Gail	343 Minnesota Av.	Buffalo	NY	14215-1031	716-838-0228

Eaton	Dr. Stephen W.	2596 Ten Mile Rd.	Allegany	NY	14706-9519	716-373-0301
Egressy	Diane & Andrew	11599 Genesee Rd.	East Concord	NY	14055-9607	716-496-6046
Elizabeth Wells	Jim Rozanski &	92 West Winspear Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14214-1116	716-837-0486
Farrell	Jerald J.	4925 Cliff St.	Lewiston	NY	14092-1822	716-754-8398
Farver	Richard	12505 Turnpike Rd.	Corry	PA	16407-8781	814-664-4198
Feliciano	David	12039 Genesee Rd.	East Concord	NY	14055-9727	716-496-5156
Firey	Myles R.	3319 E. Church St. P O Box 278	Eden	NY	14057-0278	716-992-3501
Forni	Regina	380 Stillwell Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14217-2149	716-741-3452
Freund	Harold	P. O. Box 485	Buffalo	NY	14215-0485	716-834-6181
Friedrich	David & Sherri	204 N. Transit St.	Lockport	NY	14094-2704	716-439-8899
Friedrich	David & Shirley	340 Danbury Dr.	Cheektowaga	NY	14225-2128	716-832-2447
Galas	Michael & Sylvia	16 Grand Av.	Tonawanda	NY	14150-3319	716-693-4892
Gall	Wayne & Susan	36 St. Marys St.	Lancaster	NY	14086-2016	716-681-8238
GARDINER	DENYS R.	36 WINTER WAY	BRANTFORD	ONT	N3T 6G4	519-758-5120
Gerace	Tad	23 N. Main St.	Rushville	NY	14544-9725	
Giles	Mary	465 Crescent Av.	Buffalo	NY	14214-1959	716-838-1337 May-Se
Giles	Mary	429 SW Horseshoe Bay	Port St. Lucie	FL	34986-3401	
Goetz	JoAnne	6 Pine Dr.	Fredonia	NY	14063-2218	716-672-4155
Gordon	David A.	180 Morris Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14214-1610	716-837-3031
Gralak	Sue & Dennis	167 Westfall Dr.	Tonawanda	NY	14150-7131	716-835-2790
Greenman	Nancie B.	P.O. Box 146	Colchester	CT	06415-0146	860-204-9790
Grehan	John	9402 Lemon St.	Evans	NY	14006-9236	
Gworek	Richard & Sylvia	350 S. 3rd St.	Lewiston	NY	14092-1521	716-754-8984
Hacker	Ronald & Suanne	1041 Ruie Rd.	North Tonawanda	NY	14120-1763	716-694-1249
Hamilton	Michael	51 Park St.	Buffalo	NY	14201-2020	716-881-6709
Hannah	Arthur	122 Campbell St.	Youngstown	NY	14174-1311	716-745-9921
Hansen	Janet	87 Cornell Ave.	Eggertsville	NY	14226-4207	716-837-7340
Happ	Douglas	6775 Vail Dr.	Hamburg	NY	14075-6515	716-649-1297
Harrington	Frederick	3330 E. Pleasant Dr.	Hamburg	NY	14075-6107	716-649-3566
Harwitz	Mitchell & Marjorie	222 Bedford Av.	Buffalo	NY	14216-3104	716-875-9224
Heckel	Marsha	7661 Tonawanda Creek Rd.	Lockport	NY	14094-9042	716-946-5368
Henderson	Barbara W.	131 Woodbridge Av.	Buffalo	NY	14214-1623	716-838-6163
Hess	Paul	338 Cleveland Dr.	Buffalo	NY	14223-1106	716-877-0005
Heyer	Mrs. Jane	3735 Delaware Ave., Apt. 609	Buffalo	NY	14217-1063	716-874-3326
Hiestand	Beverly	239 Parkside Ave. Apt. #4	Buffalo	NY	14214-1956	716-898-8954
Holmes	Linda	1048 Wish Circle	East Aurora	NY	14052-9654	716-655-5645
Horbett	Audrey	156 Westcliff Dr.	West Seneca	NY	14224-2840	716-674-7496
Horne	Julie	4890 W. Eddy Dr. Apt.143	Lewiston	NY	14092-2320	716-754-9093
Hughes	Mary C.	323 Wellingwood Dr.	East Amherst	NY	14051-1754	716-636-1719
Hull	Robert & Eileen	50 Stahl Rd., Apt. 111	Getzville	NY	14068-1551	716-639-7502
Humann	Alec	72 Lancaster Av.	Buffalo	NY	14222-1404	716-885-2998
JACKLIN	MARCIE	931 EDGEMERE RD.	FORT ERIE	ONT	L2A 1A7	905-871-2577
Jim Kuhn	Christine Lamont &	54 N. Long St.	Williamsville	NY	14221-5312	
Johnson	Marie T.	432 Emerson Dr., Apt. 2	Amherst	NY	14226-1335	716-837-7475
Jones	Morgan	39 Grasmere Rd.	Lockport	NY	14094-3409	716-433-5687
Joynt	Stuart F.	5401 W. Bus. 83 #830	Harlingen	TX	78552-3633	
Joynt	Stuart F.	17 Tioga St.	Buffalo	NY	14216-2718	716-873-4211
Junkin	David	3071 Pee Dee Rd.	Bliss	NY	14024-9773	716-322-9062
Kaczmarek	John & Darlene	20 Round Trail	Lackawanna	NY	14218-3724	
Kester	Bernie	24 Azure Pine Ct.	Amherst	NY	14228-1872	716-474-8452
Kippen	C. Agnes	P. O. Box 105	Lewiston	NY	14092-0105	716-754-8808
Klick	Brendan	18 Treeway Ct., Apt. 2A	Towson	MD	21286-4450	443-804-4512
Klick	Robert L.	48 Roycroft Blvd.	Snyder	NY	14226-4527	716-839-1792
Kolodziejczak	Alphonse	70 Rollingwood	Williamsville	NY	14221-1834	716-568-0808
Kreutz	Jacob & Carolyn	1443 West River Rd.	Grand Island	NY	14072-2420	716-773-7702
Kunze	Hans	6340 Lagrange Rd.	Wyoming	NY	14591-9518	585-495-6797
Labato	Eric	2092 Town Hall Ter. Apt. #1	Grand Island	NY	14072-1767	716-773-6593

Landau	Jim & Karen	9195 State Rd	Colden	NY	14033-9626	716-941-3869
Landsittel	Shirley	4056 Buffalo Av.	Buffalo	NY	14219-2832	716-826-0144
Lazarczyk	Gerald S.	2484 Oak Harbor	Grand Island	NY	14072-3007	716-773-7452
LeBlanc	Thomas P.	2408 Kings Row	Salamanca	NY	14779-9755	716-378-8181
Lewandowski	Brian N.	165 Blake Hill Rd.	East Aurora	NY	14052-2601	716-652-4658
Luensman	Nancy	11 Oak St.	Mayville	NY	14757-1304	716-753-7451
Lynne Landon	Terry Yonker &	139 Jackson St.	Youngstown	NY	14174-1003	716-745-9129
Mallam	Whitney W.	974 Ridge Rd.	Lewiston	NY	14092-9744	716-754-8879
Mansfield	Jack	349 Roycroft Blvd.	Snyder	NY	14226-4822	716-839-0588
Marcello	Christopher P.	231 Wallace Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14216-2513	716-834-0434
Mason Jr.	Mr & Mrs Max	Box 505	Batavia	NY	14021-0505	716-343-4212
McKale	Mrs. Alice	89 Larch Rd.	Eggertsville	NY	14226-2320	716-834-0784
McLellan	Jim & Marian	116 Beard Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14214-1671	716-833-3999
McMurtry	Carl H.	3939 Lower River Rd.	Youngstown	NY	14174-9738	716-745-3785
Miga	Richard E.	38 Elm St.	Fredonia	NY	14063-1937	716-672-7363
Morgante	Michael M.	59 Briar Hill Rd.	Orchard Park	NY	14127-3550	716-667-9705
Morris	Bob & Sara R.	5444 E. River Rd.	Grand Island	NY	14072-1131	716-773-6016
Mosher	Terry	8992 Harmon Hill Rd.	Fredonia	NY	14063-9657	716-672-5501
Murray	William D.	7851 Northfield Rd.	Clarence Center	NY	14032-9639	716-741-2420
Nailos	Deborah	67 Beverly Pl.	Hamburg	NY	14075-5101	716-648-5769
Norwalk	James C.	356 Washington St.	Geneva	NY	14456-2750	
Noville	Michael R.	2470 Bauer Rd.	Eden	NY	14057-9621	716-627-2646
Novitsky	Mary	4305 Harlem Rd.	Buffalo	NY	14226-4433	716-839-5165
Nutting	Lincoln	3722 East River Rd.	Grand Island	NY	14072-1451	716-773-7215
O'Donnell	Thomas M.	3067 Lewiston Rd.	Niagara Falls	NY	14305-1823	716-284-5569
Partridge	Marg	4512 E. Lake Rd.	Wilson	NY	14172-9635	716-751-9587
Pawlicki	Jim	70 Gaslight Trail	Williamsville	NY	14221-2207	716-636-3915
Perry	Jacalyn	5565 Mapleton Rd.	Lockport	NY	14094-9296	716-625-8189
Petrik	Michael & Lucille	370 Woodside Av.	Buffalo	NY	14220-2015	716-821-9351
Poole	James	425 Dansworth Rd.	Youngstown	NY	14174-1318	716-745-3726
Rachlin	Lauren & Jean	37 Dorset Dr.	Buffalo	NY	14223-1916	716-874-3166
Rader	Karen A.	5771 Griffin St.	Sanborn	NY	14132-9203	716-731-3399
Raines	Kathleen L.	12100 County Line Rd., Apt. E-1	Arcade	NY	14009-9769	585-492-5803
Randell	Nicholas & Elizabeth	498 Ashland Av.	Buffalo	NY	14222-1502	716-885-1251
Ratajczak	Edward F.	117 Sixth Av.	Lancaster	NY	14086-3050	716-683-0307
Renning	Karen	125 Woodridge Av.	Cheektowaga	NY	14225-1532	716-834-7832
Rew	Frances M.	50 Kenton Pl.	Hamburg	NY	14075-4308	716-649-4192
Righter	Pamela G.	32 Oakland Pl.	Buffalo	NY	14222-2009	716-886-3200
Rising	Gerald R.	295 Robinhill Dr.	Williamsville	NY	14221-1639	716-689-8301
Robbins	George	271 Hoyt St.	Buffalo	NY	14213-1434	716-884-2680
Roberson	Donald C.	924 Creekside Dr.	Niagara Falls	NY	14304-2531	716-283-5359
Root	Richard	160 Ridge Rd.	Buffalo	NY	14218-1035	716-825-4342
Rosenburg	Charles	77 Honорine Dr.	Depew	NY	14043-4116	716-683-8386
Rothman	Victoria	1073 Youngstown Wilson Rd.	Youngstown	NY	14174-9719	716-745-1297
ROY	KAYO J.	13 KINSMAN COURT	FONTBILL	ONT	L0S 1E3	905-892-4433
Ruh	Shelley	171 Brighton Rd.	Tonawanda	NY	14150-6818	716-876-1308
Salembier	Richard	31 Forest Stream Rd.	Williamsville	NY	14221-5302	716-631-5620
Sargent	Janice H.	16 Rankin Rd.	Snyder	NY	14226-4041	716-839-0834
Scarlett	Donald H.	7929 Alleghany Rd.	Corfu	NY	14036-9749	716-861-2109
Schlacter	Mark T.	714 Hibiscus Ave.	Lehigh Acres	FL	33936-7903	
Seamans	Gail W.	68 North Shore Dr.	Alden	NY	14004-9204	585-902-3134
Sisti	Sharon	991 Lafayette Av.	Buffalo	NY	14209-1306	716-885-5288
Skalicky	Jack	178 N. Main St. #55	Salt Lake City	UT	84103-2075	801-363-2461
Skinner	Jack	1145 Baseline Rd.	Grand Island	NY	14072-2513	716-773-3441
Smith	Arthur J.	82 Onondaga Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14220-2803	716-825-8429
Smith	Jeanine	140 Chautauqua St.	Fredonia	NY	14063-2238	716-672-2235
Soule	Stephen J.	1091 Cleveland Dr.	Cheektowaga	NY	14225-1247	716-873-8145

Sowinski	Richard	6867 Creekview Dr.	Lockport	NY	14094-9555	716-625-8754
Stains	Jacqueline M.	307 Old Meadow Dr.	East Amherst	NY	14051-2406	716-689-5773
Stegmeier	Mary Ann	1340 Maple Rd., Apt #4	Williamsville	NY	14221-3537	716-688-2957
Stewart	Mrs. Margaret	146 Traverse Blvd.	Buffalo	NY	14223-1014	716-877-4437
Stone	Paula J.	6551 Swamp Rd.	Byron	NY	14422-9761	585-548-7782
Suggs	David & Debbie	3905 N. Bailey Av.	Eggertsville	NY	14226-3202	716-836-2868
Sundell	Robert	19 Chestnut St.	Jamestown	NY	14701-3121	716-484-2197
Sweeney	Holly	171 Breezewood Cmn.	East Amherst	NY	14051-1426	716-639-0158
Szarpa	Patricia	600 N. Blossom Rd.	Elma	NY	14059-9666	716-674-2851
Thill	Joseph F.	36 Allegany Av.	Kenmore	NY	14217-2009	716-877-7257
Thill	John	400 Forest Ave.	Buffalo	NY	14213-1207	
Tock	Mary Alice	8053 Back Creek Rd.	Hamburg	NY	14075-7233	716-941-5591
Tomkins	Jim	2783 W. River Rd.	Grand Island	NY	14072-2053	716-773-5268
Trenkle	Elaine	149 E. Morris Av.	Buffalo	NY	14214-1828	716-832-5344
Utech	Norman	1426 Ransom Rd.	Grand Island	NY	14072-1456	716-909-9074
Vallone	Roberta	39 Donald Dr.	West Seneca	NY	14224-3215	716-674-9472
Vana	Joyce	190 Oakbrook Dr.	Williamsville	NY	14221-2518	716-688-2043
Vigyikan	Paul & Nancy	10 Orchard Hill Dr.	Orchard Park	NY	14127-3525	716-662-5803
Voelker	Dr. Frank J.	1825 Maple Rd., Suite 5	Williamsville	NY	14221-2723	716-810-9967
Volpe	John & Mary	2870 Buffalo St.	Attica	NY	14011-9408	585-591-9272
Wagner	Robert M.	4325 Circle Crt.	Williamsville	NY	14221-7540	716-633-8109
Watson	William & Dorothy	771 Fletcher St.	Tonawanda	NY	14150-3621	716-695-2820
Weikert	William	4188 Wildwood Dr.	Williamsville	NY	14221-7433	716-634-4680
Welte	John & Martha	112 Capen Blvd.	Amherst	NY	14226-3053	716-835-0794
Wheatley	Larry	1 Losson Garden Dr., Apt. 4	Cheektowaga	NY	14227-2336	716-668-8185
Whitt	David A.	702 Ridge Rd.	Lewiston	NY	14092-1149	716-754-1678
Wojewodzki	James L.	77 Walnut Dale Rd.	Shippensburg	PA	17257-9667	717-530-8071
Wolfling	Cyril T.	12307 Westwood Rd.	Alden	NY	14004-9669	716-937-9300
Zawistowski	Maria	5225 Bridle Path Ln.	Lewiston	NY	14092-2070	716-297-5959
Zebehazy	Michael A.	7635 Jewett Holmwood Rd	Orchard Park	NY	14127-3007	716-662-6987
Ziebarth	Paul & Virginia	49 Wansfell Rd.	Amherst	NY	14226-4650	716-837-9229
Zielinski	Eugene	1005 Pickerel Ln.	Augusta	GA	30907-3131	706-650-8959

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